



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

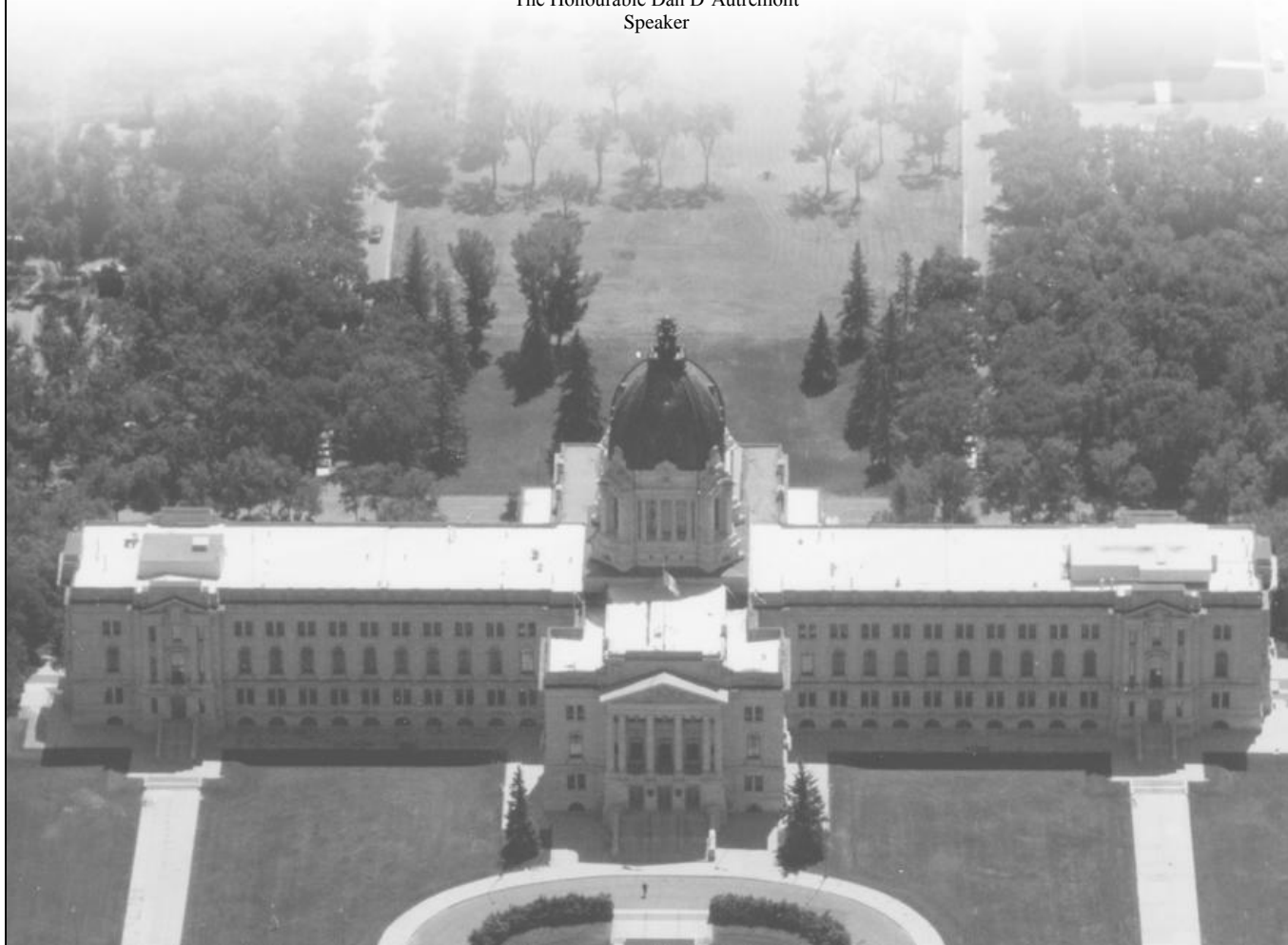
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
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Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce a lady that is very special in my life and that is my sister, Edna. She is seated in your gallery. And Edna usually comes up and spends a day or two with me each spring and fall session, so I look forward to the time that we're going to have together today. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming her to this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you and to the members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to introduce 65 grade 7 and 8 students in the west gallery today from Esterhazy. Mr. Speaker, the teachers are Meaghan Copp, Colleen Monahan, and Kristy Herperger; along with chaperones Melanie Anderson, Gilbert Moore, Carrie Nicholousan, and Janice Mozeski.

And, Mr. Speaker, I might also add that my colleague — in fact new colleague — from Saskatoon Eastview, whose home is Esterhazy is very happy to see a student group from his hometown. So he'll be joining me. We'll have the opportunity to have our photo taken and meet with the group shortly after question period, Mr. Speaker. I would ask all members to welcome the Esterhazy school group here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce no stranger to this House, sitting behind the bar, Mr. Rod Gantefoer.

Rod spent 16 years in this Legislative Assembly, 12 on that side and 4 joyous years on this side. Rod was of course the Finance minister for the first three years of our government and did an absolutely amazing job, an excellent job. The people of Saskatchewan benefited from your intelligence and the way you handled such a very difficult file, especially for one year especially.

Rod is now working for the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] program as a vice-president for fundraising for the STARS program. We look forward to dealing with him much more. You know, good people don't stay unemployed for very long, and Rod didn't stay unemployed for very long.

So I'd like all members to welcome Rod to the House. I did want to say to the opposition though that, don't worry, he's not staying here permanently. That would put it as almost to 49 on this side. That's just way too many. But I would say to all

members if you would welcome Rod back to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of the House, Ms. Catherine Fuchs who is sitting in your gallery, an employee of the Workers' Compensation Board that I met shortly, recently ago at a Christmas function who indicated that she had not been in the building for some years. And I've arranged for a tour for her today. And she's gone through the building and would like to urge all members of the civil service to come back and revisit the Assembly if they haven't or they should do that something on a more frequent basis. It is their Assembly as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all members to welcome her.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of trappers of Saskatchewan. The current regulations being enforced are creating challenges that concern our traditional trappers. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the experience gained through practical experience be valued, and in so doing to cause the government to review the current legislation and regulations with respect to trapping regulations and firearm use in consultation with traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many trappers and community members. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Fundraiser Celebrates Broadway Theatre

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Broadway Theatre in the historic Nutana district of Saskatoon promotes the many facets of Saskatchewan's multicultural community. The theatre provides diverse programming for people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and special needs, and promotes the use of the theatre by many cultural and social organizations for special screenings, ethnic film festivals, and special events. It is often said that the theatre is at once a community cultural centre and a window on the world.

The mission of the Friends of the Broadway Theatre is to serve the arts and entertainment interests of the public by offering film and live performance in a community owned and operated heritage building.

In late November, from the 20th to the 26th, the Broadway Theatre held a week-long fundraiser. Each evening had its own theme celebrating diverse cultural and artistic entertainment. Patrons of the theatre enjoyed live music and films, and all of the dollars spent went directly to the Broadway, as all performers donated their performances to the cause. PotashCorp generously donated to support the Broadway cause by matching all ticket dollars, donations, and memberships sold during the week for a maximum of up to \$20,000.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and staff, especially the Friends of the Broadway Theatre, for all their fundraising. Due to its prime location, unique history, and its commitment to cultural entertainment, the Broadway Theatre is a treasure of the Saskatoon Nutana constituency. Please join me in recognizing this amazing institution.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Christmas Concert in Marysburg

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tiny community of Marysburg is located about nine miles north of Humboldt. Marysburg has a very large and beautiful church that has the most awesome acoustics imaginable. The church was not being used enough to justify its upkeep, so to rectify this, the community formed the Marysburg Centre of the Arts Inc.

On Sunday afternoon, I had the great pleasure of attending their 14th annual Christmas concert. The concert was made up of 88 voices from 13 different communities. There was an adult choir, the men's choir, the ladies' choir, the youth choir, and the children's choir. As well there was piano by Sharon Guina, organ by Greg Schulte, clarinet by Dale Avison, violin, and even a handbell quartet. The youngest performer was eight years old and at the other end of the spectrum, two singers at 80 years young.

The concert closed with the ageless Christmas favourite, *Stille Nacht* — for you non-Germans, *Silent Night*.

Many thanks go out to the community of Marysburg for organizing this event and to Sharon Carter of Middle Lake for conducting. In the words of one of the guests, "The music was nourishment for the soul and enriched the spirit." As we were leaving, a friend said to me, "Now it feels like Christmas." God bless and Merry Christmas, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Children's Hospital Fundraiser in La Ronge

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation teamed up with Cameco to host a six-hour radiothon on Friday, November 25th, 2011 from the La Ronge Hotel & Suites. The live event was a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. The Children's Hospital Foundation is currently trying to raise \$25 million for the creation of the new children's hospital to be constructed in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, the six-hour radiothon raised over \$625,000. Over

300,000 was raised through the generous support of northern First Nations, northern communities, individuals, and companies. Cameco agreed to match all donations raised on November 25th, dollar for dollar. This brought the total raised to \$625,856.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership and Lac La Ronge Indian Band, departments, communities, individuals gave a combined donation totalling \$115,685. Mr. Speaker, another major supporter was the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, where the combined donation from the development corporation, schools, individuals, within the community totalled 25,000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Deborah Charles from Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation and Gary Merasty from Cameco for their sponsorship and great work. I wish to recognize all companies, organizations, and community members who volunteered and pledged financial support for this worthwhile event.

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

Dream Brokers Program

Ms. Campeau: — Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in the House to extend congratulations to the Dream Brokers program on their successes in providing youth facing social and economic challenges with opportunities to participate in sport, culture, and recreation activities. Mr. Speaker, aside from the many positive benefits of becoming involved in physical activity, programs such as Dream Brokers provide children and youth with a sense of pride in their accomplishments and confidence to pursue additional challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the Dream Brokers are employed by Sask Sport in partnership with the Saskatoon and Regina public and Catholic school boards. The Dream Brokers work in the schools to respond to the interests of underprivileged youth who are seeking out recreational, sport, and cultural opportunities but may have existing barriers such as lack of finances, transportation, or access to the potential opportunity. Once a youth expresses interest in a particular activity, the Dream Broker works with organizations, agencies, and groups to explore ways in which these barriers to participation can be eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to join me in recognizing the Dream Brokers for their many successes. I am sure I can speak for the House when I say that we look forward to hearing more success stories as the program continues to grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cultural Fair Raises Multicultural Awareness

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on December the 7th, Central Collegiate hosted the second annual Cultural Fair in Moose Jaw. The Cultural Fair raises awareness of

multiculturalism. It empowers students and their families by showcasing traditional food, music, and dance performances from a variety of countries. Some of the festival organizers were staff from the Moose Jaw multicultural centre's settlement support workers in schools program.

The settlement support workers in schools is a school-based outreach program offered throughout the province, and it is the first year of operation in Moose Jaw. SSWIS [settlement support worker in schools], as it is commonly referred to, connects newly arrived families to services and resources in the school and in the community in order to promote settlement and foster student achievement. The front line service these support workers provide to newcomers and their children is an important part of the settlement service program offered by this government. The SSWIS program consists of a partnership that includes the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council, the Prairie South and Holy Trinity boards of education, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this Assembly to join me in recognizing the students and the staff of Central Collegiate and the staff of the settlement support workers in schools program for the valued services they provide to Saskatchewan newcomers and other population.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Company Achieves Milestone Revenues

Hon. Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand in this House today and recognize the incredible accomplishments of Brandt Industries Ltd. Brandt Industries has recently surpassed the milestone of \$1 billion in annual revenue for 2011. One billion dollars in sales is rarely achieved by Canadian companies, let alone privately owned companies.

Brandt is one of Canada's largest privately owned companies and is operated so well that they are among an elite group of platinum members of the Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies program. Brandt Industries has been moving forward in global economic hard times. They have 27 locations across North America, and they are still expanding with a plan to invest an additional 50 million in capital assets to continue growing the company.

As a show of thanks to the employees of Brandt industry for their contribution to the success of the company, profit-sharing bonuses and preloaded Brandt Visa cards have been distributed to the employees. Brandt is also giving back to the people of the province. They have given 100,000 to United Way and 50,000 to the Canadian Wish Foundation. Under the leadership of Gavin Semple, Brandt Industries has become a global industry leader. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

New Affordable Rental Housing

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I had the pleasure of accompanying Minister Draude to the official naming ceremony of a new, three storey, multi-use, affordable rental housing project in Regina.

This affordable rental housing unit will give Regina's individuals with chronic mental health conditions and cognitive disabilities a steady foundation to stabilize their lives and build their futures. This is a state of the art facility that affords comfort and security in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

The building, which will open its doors in early 2012, was officially designated today as McEwen Manor after former long-serving board member and former Chair of Ehrlo Community Services, Bob McEwen. In his years of service, Mr. McEwen has made a tremendous impact on the Ranch Ehrlo organization and, most importantly, on the people it serves. His compassion, dedication, and optimism are very much evident in the existence of this project and the work that will take place within it. This project has become a reality due to the excellent partnerships, collaboration, and funding provided by the city of Regina, the Ranch Ehrlo organization, and both federal and provincial governments.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like this Assembly to join me in acknowledging Bob McEwen for his years of dedicated service to the Ranch Ehrlo organization and congratulate him on this recent honour that has been bestowed upon him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Protection of Information

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Information Technology Office, ITO, contracts with ISM [Information Systems Management Corporation] to provide data management services. These contracts have grown by more than 150 per cent over the past four years. ISM is a subsidiary of IBM [International Business Machines Corporation], a wholly owned US [United States]-based company.

To the minister: what assurances can he provide Saskatchewan people that their private, personal information is protected from inappropriate access by American authorities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite references a comment made by the auditor in her recent report. I've met with the auditor. I've talked to her about the issues she's identified, the ones related to the *PATRIOT* [Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism] *Act*. Mr. Speaker, in her report she states that different governments have looked at the *PATRIOT Act*. It's an Act that applies to American companies around the world. ISM is a Canadian company operated in Canada. It does

have a parent company — IBM — that is operated out of the US.

But, Mr. Speaker, in her report she states that the federal Treasury Board also looked at the *PATRIOT Act*. Much of their data, much of government data in Canada is held by companies like ISM. And the federal Treasury Board saw it as a low risk. And, Mr. Speaker, we take her comments very seriously and we work to address many of her concerns.

This is one that we will likewise ensure that we have as much ability to mitigate risk as possible. And we will continue to move forward to ensure that the people of Saskatchewan's data is as safe as absolutely possible.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we know that's not the case right now, though. And from Public Accounts in June of this year when the opposition raised these questions, we highlighted at that point in time the need for greater security. The report of the auditor reinforced those pieces.

In fact at the time in the Public Accounts in June, the question was, can we be assured that the personal information cannot be accessed by Americans under the *PATRIOT Act*? And at that time, the government gave assurances that there was no risk. But since the auditor's report has been released, that has changed. She stated otherwise, and I quote: "The protections put in place by ITO cannot assure that information will not be accessible through the operation of the *USA Patriot Act*."

So the question to the minister is simply: what measures is he taking to assure Saskatchewan people that their private, personal information is safe and secure and not being inappropriately accessed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I laid out in my first answer, this is something that every government in Canada utilizes the private sector, Mr. Speaker, that we utilize ISM to keep much of our data. And it's a move, Mr. Speaker, that in years past, under the former government, they didn't have a data centre with appropriate protocols. They didn't have a data centre that had security around the servers. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when we became government, there were servers in closets. There were servers in buildings that did not have appropriate protocols, appropriate security.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have taken a very serious approach. We have taken security of people's data to a new level, Mr. Speaker. It is something that we are going to continue to work on, Mr. Speaker. The *PATRIOT Act* is one aspect, but there are many aspects of security, of expectations the people of Saskatchewan have for the security of their data. It's a work-in-progress, and we will continue to work towards the goal of ensuring that our data is as safe as possible. And, Mr. Speaker, that is something that we feel we've improved dramatically in the last four years.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It appears, Mr. Speaker, that that minister is trying to dismiss this matter, make it trivial. In fact it's not a small matter. This is Saskatchewan people's private, personal information that we're speaking of and ensuring that it's not accessed inappropriately by the US government, Mr. Speaker.

The auditor's report does lay out some specific mechanisms and recommendations that can be put in place to help safeguard the personal information of Saskatchewan people, highlights that other provinces have put forth legislation, has highlighted that there's different pieces around encryption, highlighting that we should be understanding these risks as we're entering into contracts with these third party providers, Mr. Speaker. And we know that this government's spending significantly more to these private sector contractors. This contract alone, which was \$6 million, is now over \$15 million, Mr. Speaker, and there's information that's placed at risk.

So I guess the question to the minister is: is he prepared to follow the recommendations of the auditor and to ensure that Saskatchewan people's private, personal information is protected with the kind of certainty that Saskatchewan people expect and deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite references the recommendation put forward by the auditor. I have met with the auditor. We are working to address the concerns that she has put forward. In her report she states that the federal Treasury Board has identified this as a potential risk. They put a great deal of due diligence in it. And Mr. Speaker, in her report she states that the federal Treasury Board has put it as a low risk.

But, Mr. Speaker, also in her report she talks about ensuring contracts are written in a specific manner to say that this data is not to be shared. That is something that is in this contract, Mr. Speaker. In every contract as we move forward, in every security mechanism we can put in place, Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to ensure that the data of the people of Saskatchewan is as safe as possible.

But, Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the members opposite, when I talk of four years ago under their watch there were servers in closets in insecure places, and they laughed, Mr. Speaker. That is the kind of not taking the issue seriously that I think has landed them over there, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to make sure that data is handled in appropriate fashion as we continue to move forward.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The auditor's report is clear, Mr. Speaker. And it highlights that there's a risk to Saskatchewan people as it relates to their private, personal information being accessed by US authorities. I think Saskatchewan people would see this as a significant challenge and a significant priority. For the minister to continue to suggest that somehow this is a

low-level priority or a low risk simply isn't enough, Mr. Speaker.

There's options that exist here and there's recommendations that have been put forward. And here in Saskatchewan we have a great resource by way of our Independent Officer of this Assembly, the Privacy Commissioner, who's been actually making this offer and this plea for some period of time to make the improvements to privacy legislation in this province. That's one of the recommendations, as well, of the auditor's report.

So I guess my question to the minister is: will he commit today to working with the Privacy Commissioner here in Saskatchewan to bring forward legislation that in fact protects and brings forward the absolute certainty that Saskatchewan people deserve as it relates to the storage and access of their private, personal information, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Information Technology.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite again talks about, will we work with the auditor? The answer is yes. The auditor said that we should ensure that our contracts, Mr. Speaker, contained a provision that makes the data something that cannot be shared. That is something that we ensured was in the contract, Mr. Speaker. Again, the auditor spells this out as something that is a potential risk. She then puts in a report that this is something the federal Treasury Board took a very in-depth look at and held out as a low risk, Mr. Speaker.

I will say it again to the members opposite: we take security very seriously. We take the data of the people of Saskatchewan very seriously, Mr. Speaker. As we move forward, we have improved the data in a very large way, the security of it. And we will continue to do so as long as we are in government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Wetland Conservation and Drainage Management

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, wetlands are an important part of our watershed system. Sadly Saskatchewan has one of the highest wetland loss rates in the country. It's estimated that 28 acres of wetlands are lost every day in southern Saskatchewan alone. It's also well documented that the drainage of wetlands leads to downstream flooding and destruction of municipal infrastructure and personal property. What is not documented is the full extent of the destruction of these seasonal wetlands in Saskatchewan, considering that there is no baseline data available to monitor and track this disturbing trend.

To the minister: is he prepared to direct the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to gather relevant data so that the authority can properly monitor the status of Saskatchewan wetlands?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, I'm in agreement with the member that wetlands are a valuable resource in Saskatchewan. They provide many benefits — storage of greenhouse gases, the storage and filtration of water. We've seen a number of benefits by wetlands during a year of excess moisture in the province where wetlands were able to store additional water that the system couldn't hold, Mr. Speaker.

I want to, I can tell the members, the member and the members of the House, that our government is developing a new policy framework for wetland conservation in collaboration with not only the Ministry of Environment, with the Watershed Authority — with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities as well as Ducks Unlimited, Mr. Speaker. And that final plan will address wetland conservation and drainage management issues.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of complaints about illegal drainage has risen drastically in the last couple of years, and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has a backlog of complaints that they can't keep up with as they don't have sufficient resources to manage the volume. The existing penalties, which even the minister himself has acknowledged are not steep enough, are not even being used.

To the minister: when and how will the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority send a message to producers that this is a serious issue and start properly investigating and prosecuting these offences?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to inform the member that this is a very serious issue for the province, especially in light of the last two years where we have had excess moisture in the province. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I met just recently, with several of my colleagues, with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities who are hearing from their ratepayers on an ongoing basis about the problems that unauthorized drainage is causing, Mr. Speaker.

And I have told that group, and I will tell others, that we are working with the Watershed Authority to reduce that backlog as quickly as we can, knowing full well that this has been a very busy year on a number of fronts for the Watershed Authority, especially in light of the excess moisture. And we will be looking at all avenues, including the regulations and the legislation, as it comes, when it comes to penalties involved for unauthorized drainage.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Wednesday, Ducks Unlimited issued a press release pointing out the lack of commitment to this issue in the Throne Speech. I am glad to hear that the minister met with SARM [Saskatchewan

Association of Rural Municipalities] last Thursday to discuss this issue and he agrees it's a serious matter needing attention by this government.

If producers leave these wetlands out of production, it affects their bottom line, so there's little incentive for them to be proactive. They are also suffering the effects of drainage from neighbours up the watershed from them so are being forced to pass the flooding they get down the line.

Last year alone, the flooding costs of this government were \$240 million, Mr. Speaker. This government should know that an ounce of prevention leads to a pound of cure. To the minister: when will this government introduce legislation to give producers the necessary incentives to protect and reclaim these precious wetlands?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do want to, I do want to again say that I did meet with SARM and discussed this very issue. I do also want to say that I have met recently, in the very recent past, just prior to the last, this previous election, with Ducks Unlimited to discuss this very issue. I had the opportunity to spend some time with a number of Ducks Unlimited officials. We toured some of the projects, not only that they're working on but also ones that private landowners are concerned about when it comes to drainage.

And we are working on a framework as it relates to a comprehensive wetlands policy, not only in co-operation with those outside agencies but as well consisting, the steering committee consisting of the Ministry of Environment, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SARM, as well as Agriculture. And we look forward to moving forward on the development of that new policy.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke this morning with a reeve from eastern Saskatchewan who told me that the number of incidents of illegal drainage has "gone beyond craziness." The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is underfunded, under-resourced, and does not have the capacity to enforce its existing illegal land drainage penalties. Municipal infrastructure is taking a pounding. Producers and the taxpayers are suffering.

To the minister: given his recent assurances to SARM, when will he be announcing this plan that he has promised them? When will we see real action instead of vague promises?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the unauthorized drainage, we do know that . . . Specifically on that issue, we do know that the Watershed Authority is dealing with a large backlog, not only through the informal complaint process, but also when it gets to the formal complaint process. The Watershed Authority is actively working on a plan to move

through all of that backlog, whether it be using their own internal resources, Mr. Speaker, or looking at some outside resources that may help deal with that backlog for this specific year — when over the last two years we have been dealing with excess moisture throughout large parts of the province — in an attempt to, in an expedited fashion, reduce that backlog for the benefit not only of the RMs [rural municipality] that are dealing with this issue with their ratepayers, but also of course those downstream landowners whose operations have been impacted.

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

Combatting HIV

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that Saskatchewan faces the biggest HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] epidemic in all of Canada. Last year we saw 174 new HIV cases, including one newborn baby. Throughout this past year, we've had over 200 new HIV cases. The HIV infection rate in Saskatchewan is 2.5 times the national average per capita, and we have one-quarter of all HIV-related deaths in Canada.

While the provincial government does have an HIV strategy, those on the front lines working on this issue, Mr. Speaker, tell me that the strategy is simply a drop in the bucket. My question to the minister: when will his government realize that there is an HIV epidemic and act accordingly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government is very aware of the HIV issue that's taking place in the province. We've seen other provinces go through this as well. Manitoba has faced serious increases of HIV cases. We are right now, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing an increase over the last number of years. I would say that our last year's numbers dropped down, although it may be an anomaly; it may be a one-time incident, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are looking to make sure that we have our HIV strategy in place which we put in place a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we do address this issue. Part of the strategy, Mr. Speaker, is greater testing, is making sure people that have HIV know they have HIV and then take the precautions not to spread HIV, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I realize our strategy is only within its first year and a half, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you that it is a strategy that has been proven to work in other jurisdictions, and I believe it will work here to help drive down the numbers into the future.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's fine for the minister to give very predictable speaking points. But we know when we speak with individuals working on the front lines that the strategy that the government has simply is not good enough. On many occasions, Mr. Speaker, we see members from the front bench dismiss concerns that are raised, only later to recognize that it is

a problem. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem, and it deserves better from this government. When we look at the trends for HIV infection in the province, we see a huge increase, Mr. Speaker, among young people, young people aged 14 to 17, teenagers in this province.

So my question to the minister: beyond the points that he has on his paper, when is this government going to take this epidemic seriously and act accordingly, putting real resources behind what needs to be done?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we saw the numbers increase over the last number of years, four years that we've been in government and certainly before that, we know that it is a unique situation in Saskatchewan, a unique situation, Mr. Speaker, in that the spread of HIV in Saskatchewan is mainly through intravenous drug use. In other words, sharing of needles is the biggest contributor, Mr. Speaker. And to that, that's why we are working on a strategy to certainly educate those that are in the drug habit, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that they know the risk, but more importantly is to do point-of-care testing, Mr. Speaker, so that we test more individuals on a regular basis so they know whether they're affected.

Mr. Speaker, we have more work to do in this area, absolutely. This is a tough community to reach. And so we're looking at many different ways to reach this community, whether it's through social media or whatever, because we know the mainstream media, perhaps papers and perhaps TV, isn't the way to get to address this community. So we're looking at various ways, Mr. Speaker. But I will tell you that our government takes this issue very seriously, and we've invested time and money to address the issue.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad he's brought up the issue of funding because that's where this question goes. The government's own HIV strategy says that "A conservative estimate of direct costs to the Saskatchewan health care system is approximately 40 million per year." According to the government's own figures, when you factor in the indirect cost attributable to HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome], the estimated cost is 136 million per year, Mr. Speaker. And this doesn't take into effect, take into account the huge toll that it has on lives, Mr. Speaker, yet the Sask Party's approach to this issue is only spending \$2.5 million a year.

So my question to the minister: when the human toll is so great, when the social costs are so great, when the financial costs for the province are so great, why is he taking this drop-in-the-bucket approach?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in this front, we are certainly working with all our health regions, as well as community-based organizations, to address this issue.

Some of the strong community-based organizations that are front line that are dealing with this issue are very valued partners, Mr. Speaker.

We are investing \$2.5 million annually into an HIV strategy. Mr. Speaker, HIV did not start in this province this year, the year before, or even in 2007, Mr. Speaker. It had been in this province for many years. The numbers are increasing. But we are investing \$2.5 million into a strategy, Mr. Speaker, which is \$2.5 million more than the former NDP [New Democratic Party] government did.

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

Housing

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Moose Jaw Housing Authority now is being forced by Sask Housing to increase rents by 22 per cent over the last year. Here's a quote from a letter from the housing authority board chairman:

The MJHA Board of Directors is not supportive of these increases, and has made that view known to Sask Housing, but as the property management agency of SHC, we are required to carry out SHC directives.

To the minister: why is the Sask Party forcing local housing authorities to significantly increase rents on units that are supposed to be affordable?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that everyone in the province, the members opposite, know that Sask Housing is committed to having safe, affordable housing, and social tenants continue to pay rent based on their income. Some tenants are eligible for rental supplements and shelter allowance as well. Mr. Speaker, combined, this will add to 100 per cent of the average market rent.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we have to, in the province, make sure that Sask Housing rents stay comparable to the private market. In the last number of years, this has dipped considerably. And we want to make sure that Sask Housing has an opportunity to serve the people that need social housing and affordable housing, and that the rental, the private market does actually increase.

Mr. Speaker, there's a continuum along the shelter rate that we have. We need more work to do. We know that we need houses in every area and that's why we developed a housing strategy plan, Mr. Speaker. The housing authorities are important to the work that we do, and I assure you that we listen to them with the greatest of intent.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Shame on that minister for talking about rental supplements because she knows full well seniors do not qualify for rental supplements. She knows that. So right across this province, we are seeing rents go up in the affordable housing

units. We're talking about the affordable housing units, not the social housing.

And today we learned from CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] that the rents, the vacancy rates have gone up, or gone down in Saskatchewan. They have now fallen in this province to 1.9 per cent from 2.6 per cent. This came out of Ottawa this morning. And Regina now has the worst vacancy rate in the entire country. It was 1 per cent. Now it is point six per cent.

And I wrote the minister in June asking that she rescind this increase in affordable housing but she had her officials say, no, no this wasn't going to happen. I am asking her now, in the spirit of the season, where these seniors and low-income people are going to be in the streets in January looking for new accommodation because the rents do go up in February, will she rescind this rent increase?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — We know the rents must be adjusted periodically to remain within the private market. And also I think the member opposite knows that when they were in government, they increased rents every year between 2002 and 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I am also well aware that the vacancy rate right across Canada today through CMHC was noted as in, decreasing from 2.2 to 2.6. Mr. Speaker, the vacancy rate in Saskatchewan is about the same as it was last year.

The last year these people, the NDP, were in government, the vacancy rate was 1.2 per cent. Since then, we've had 50,000 more people come to this province and the vacancy rate is 1.9 per cent. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we are building houses. We have built 968 new units since November of 2007. We have invested \$309 million into projects like Headstart and rental incentive construction program. Mr. Speaker, there's more work to be done and I assure you that that is what we're doing in every part of the province. And I'm proud of the work we're doing.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

New Online Campsite Reservation System

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today with some exciting news about our beloved provincial park system.

This morning I announced the opening date for Saskatchewan Parks' new online campsite reservation service, and it's ready just in time as the numbers are in. And in 2011, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Parks set a new record for visitations. Mr. Speaker, despite some pretty cold and wet weather early on and lingering high water in some locations, this year has been the busiest ever for our provincial parks. In fact visits overall have gone up by more than 11 per cent since 2007.

As the popularity of camping in our provincial parks grows, so does the use of our reservation service. In this record-setting year, some 28,000 reservations were made in our parks, and many more were requested.

Mr. Speaker, on March 12th, 2012, starting at 8 a.m., park users will be able to book a campsite in real time online or by telephone at all our provincial parks and major recreation sites. People can go to a website called saskparks.net to select and reserve a campsite, pay for it, and receive confirmation in a matter of minutes, all with just a click of a mouse or the tap of a finger on the screen of their mobile device.

Mr. Speaker, with this new service, campers will now be able to search by park, by date, or by campsite type. They will be able to choose their site and, with photos of every campsite online, people will know in advance that it will accommodate their trailer or other camper unit. While we are encouraging everyone to book their stay online, for those who are not able to do so, they can phone or call our call centre toll-free, where agents will make the booking and provide an instant confirmation.

Mr. Speaker, over the past four years, our government has invested more than \$33 million into upgrading our parks, including an increase of 250 per cent to the Parks capital budget. We've added electricity to almost 1,100 sites. We've built new service centres, boat launches, playgrounds, and change houses. We've even opened up the first new campground in a Saskatchewan park in more than 20 years. And as we heard last week in the Throne Speech, the improvements will continue with a further \$10 million investment over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, the trend is clear. Enjoying a Saskatchewan park is an increasingly popular pastime. Mr. Speaker, with this new real time online system, we will improve the overall reservation experience and provide our park users with what they've been asking for to make their visits memorable and hassle-free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start out with thanking the minister and his staff for providing me with a copy of his statement today.

I guess there's an opportunity for people. And I know people have brought concerns forward about having an opportunity to reserve a campsite, and there is going to be an opportunity for them to go online and do that. And I looked through the report and his statement and some of the information he shared today, and hopefully people will use that. We have a lot of, I guess, tourists that come out of the province but also we have a lot of people in the province that use the parks right now. They are beautiful parks. We are proud of them whether it's northern Saskatchewan, southern Saskatchewan. Wherever you go in this beautiful province, the parks are there for them. They have been there for many years and will continue to be there if we take care of them.

So at this time, I would just like to say we'll monitor, making sure this new announcement, an opportunity for people to utilize, is properly utilized and make sure that it's well used and

making sure that it meets all the hurrahs that the minister has announced. Anyway thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 19 — *The Assessment Appraisers Amendment Act, 2011*

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

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 19, *The Assessment Appraisers Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs first reading of Bill No. 19, *The Assessment Appraisers Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Next sitting of the House.

Bill No. 20 — *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 20, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs first reading of Bill No. 20, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

Bill No. 21 — *The Commissioners for Oaths Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 21, *The Commissioners for Oaths Act, 2011* be now introduced and

read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General first reading of Bill No. 21, *The Commissioners for Oaths Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

Bill No. 22 — *The Commissioners for Oaths Consequential Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Commissioners for Oaths Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 22, *The Commissioners for Oaths Consequential Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General first reading of Bill No. 22, *The Commissioners for Oaths Consequential Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried

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

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 23 — *The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 23, *The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General first reading of Bill No. 23, *The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When will this Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 24 — *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 24, *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General first reading of Bill No. 24, *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

Bill No. 25 — *The Ombudsman Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 25, *The Ombudsman Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General first reading of Bill No. 25, *The Ombudsman Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The next sitting of the house, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 26 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 26, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 26, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next meeting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 27 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education first reading of Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

Bill No. 28 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education first reading of Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, according to the

Legislative Assembly Act, I table the annual report of Saskatchewan Legislative Library.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to make a motion regarding committee membership.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked leave to make a motion regarding committee membership. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Committee Membership

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the name of Corey Tochor be submitted for that of Wayne Elhard on the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That the name of Corey Tochor be substituted for that of Wayne Elhard on the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 6 — *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce for second reading a Bill that will have a great impact on the business community of Saskatchewan. *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* outlines legislative requirements to streamline business registration and reporting across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. It's part of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the New West Partnership is a far-reaching economic partnership designed to foster prosperity through meaningful interprovincial collaboration that will build on Saskatchewan's opportunity-rich economy and competitive

business environment. Working together has allowed the three provinces to harness its strengths and use our tax dollars more effectively to make the region more attractive to businesses and workers. Our agreement with Alberta and British Columbia to streamline the requirements needed to start and operate a business across our three provinces will make it easier to do business in the West.

Effective July 1st, 2012, businesses registered as a corporation will no longer need to be registered separately in each of the three jurisdictions. By choosing extra-provincial as an option when they register in their home province, business corporations will automatically be registered in the other two westernmost provinces, and registration fees for the other provinces will also be waived. It also allows business corporations to file one annual return in their home province instead of three separate returns.

Mr. Speaker, streamlined regulation and processes across the three provinces will produce great benefits for the business community and for government. It will reduce the administration burden on government and businesses, provide cost savings through reduced registration requirements and elimination of annual reporting other than in the home jurisdiction, reduce impediments to trade and investment in the West, and ensure equal treatment of all businesses regardless of their home province.

Mr. Speaker, as the administrator of Saskatchewan's Corporate Registry and Business Registration Saskatchewan, Information Services Corporation is focused on ways to streamline processes across government with the goal of reducing efforts and costs for businesses and government. ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] is working closely with Alberta and British Columbia to ensure compatible policies and regulations with common data exchange processes are developed together for the July 1st implementation date.

Mr. Speaker, there is another aspect of this legislation that is not related to the New West Partnership that will also support streamlined services to the Saskatchewan business community through ISC's business portal initiative. The first phase of the business portal is up and running now. The Business Registrations Saskatchewan website provides one easy-to-use, online process to complete the steps required to: one, register a business with the corporate registry; two, as an employer of a workmen's compensation board; and three, the provincial sales tax with the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide ISC with the ability to add the Canadian revenue agency business number as an identifier to facilitate the sharing of information among the three levels of government — municipal, provincial, and federal.

The Canada Revenue Agency already has agreements with five other provinces and several federal ministries with respect to the use and exchange of the business number — the nine-digit number assigned to a business that registers with the agency. Using the business number will provide a common identifier, making it easier to interact with multiple government agencies and support the overall goal to expand the business portal to provide a single point of access to most business services

provided by government.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation related to the New West Partnership and the Canadian revenue agency business number is another step in this government's focus to provide more convenient and cost-effective means to deliver government services to business.

To be competitive in attracting businesses and support the growing private sector, Saskatchewan must improve its online services to business. These initiatives will enhance services and make it easier to do business in our province by streamlining processes across government, ultimately reducing costs for businesses and government.

Mr. Speaker, it therefore gives me great pleasure to move that *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Information Technology Office, Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too am pleased today to offer some of our insight, and certainly some of my insight, as to what the Bill proposes to do. And as we indicated on numerous occasions, the role of this Assembly is to ensure that we properly look at the documentation and the Bills that are being proposed. We ask the questions that need to be asked, and we certainly want to also consult and seek advice from those groups that are impacted or certainly affected by this Act.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that at the outset when you look at some of the Bills being proposed by this government, whether it's this minister or another minister, we want to make sure that . . . Again what is being proposed may seem innocuous, but we want to make sure that we take the time to understand where these Bills are going and why they're being proposed at this time and what is the objective of some of these Bills.

Again under the New West Partnership, I understand the minister to indicate that these Bills are really to streamline the regulations between the three provinces of the West — Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC [British Columbia] — to try and ensure that they do put the least amount of obstacles in front of the business community.

And certainly from the NDP caucus, the opposition caucus, we understand the importance of the private sector. We understand that the business community has to move. We understand that they're a vital cog in our provincial economy. We want to continue building on their success, Mr. Speaker.

So I think there's no question in our minds, as we begin to look at the history of what the NDP done to encourage and foster that private sector growth, I can remember a number of years ago where we made the commitment to reduce regulations as a priority of this government and to really work with the private

sector to make sure they knew that Saskatchewan was a great place in which they could live, invest in, and certainly raise a family. So, Mr. Speaker, any time we hear of some opportunity and some better business opportunities to build on the success of the private sector, as a New Democratic caucus, we certainly want to look as to how we could accommodate that and support that.

So again at the outset I think the attitude that we have towards the business community is good. I think that the whole notion of streamlining regulations . . . And certainly working with the Canada Revenue Agency is certainly an aspect that I wasn't aware of but certainly been made aware of it now. And to also look at the whole issue of having to only register in one of the jurisdictions and being recognized by the other two, and I think in terms of the returns on some of the documents that these businesses have to submit, whether it's for taxation purposes or information purposes, and having that streamlined as well is not a major problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think overall when you look at the Bill that's being proposed now, at the outset I think our attitude toward the business community has always been good, and we want to continue building on the success we had and certainly build on the success of the economy that's in place now.

That being said, I want to also point out that we need to make sure that this Act that is being proposed by the minister is not an avenue in which some of the other business communities in other jurisdictions would come along and say, well if we can register in Saskatchewan and avoid doing all these other things that are attached to some of the regulations of Alberta or some of the needs of BC, and that Saskatchewan's, as an example, their labour laws are weaker. We can use that particular standard in Saskatchewan. If we register there, we might be able to use that avenue of weaker labour laws to, you know, to make sure that Alberta and then Saskatchewan could recognize that and lower that level playing field in both those provinces to match the Saskatchewan's laws. And what happens at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, is you have the three jurisdictions looking and collaborating as to how they could weaken the, as the case I use, some of the labour laws, when you look at some of the activity happening on the business front.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what you don't want to see is, don't want to see that aspect of any Bill come forward. And that's one of the reasons why as an opposition we embrace the role of making sure that if you do have an idea that deserves praise and has great merit, so be it. But people have to know that every time the Saskatchewan Party government proposes a concept or a new Bill, that you have to look at a bunch of things that they might be after.

And what we fear in the opposition is they use the great opportunity attached to the business side of things, as the case with this Bill, but they turn around and they try and sneak other issues through the process that the minister has spoken about. And then we begin to see a race to the bottom on things like workers' safety, on things like certification of all your workers, on things like environmental standards, and the list goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

So we need to make sure that if this is a simple case, a simple

case of trying to make sure that there's a streamline of regulation for the business community, that when they want to incorporate one jurisdiction that they are recognized in another jurisdiction, whether it's Canada or the taxation purposes, that there's some streamlining there. There's nothing wrong with streamlining and having those regulations certainly operate in sync with Alberta and with BC as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, again at the outset you look at the Bill itself, and in its purest form there may be some great ideas here. But there is always an ulterior motive, and that's exactly what we're trying to find out.

So the question that we have for the minister: in looking at all these particular Bills and trying to streamline their operation, is there any impact on workers' safety standards? Is there any of that particular aspect, that a company could use our weaker standards, as the case may be, to try and register their company and thereby get away with more of a challenge to worker safety by simply coming to Saskatchewan or for that case maybe going to Alberta and forcing the Saskatchewan government to recognize how different jurisdictions might undertake worker safety standards?

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of regulation attached to the business community. It's not just about taxation. It's not just about recognizing the fact that we've had to streamline some of the rules, but also to make sure that we look at the, as I mentioned, the environmental standards and how they treat their ways, how they treat their employees, workplace safety. The list kind of goes on and on and on as to some of the challenges that the business community should and must face.

So in that regard, Mr. Speaker, as I look at the Bill itself, we ask the simple question as to which groups and organizations have had an opportunity to look at this Bill. Is this Bill part of a larger package? And obviously that should be the case. And when is that larger package coming forward? Because what I feel is going to happen, Mr. Speaker, is you're going to have the ministers try and sneak in four or five little, smaller Bills here, meanwhile avoiding the big question of the New West Partnership and having the public or giving the public the opportunity to debate that partnership and seeing where the weakness is and make sure they expose that weakness and get the people of Saskatchewan to also look at that particular Act or the particular actions of this government.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the outset as I indicated, it seemed like a great idea to have a streamlined process for all the businesses and that if they do register in one jurisdiction, that it'll recognize in the other three. There is certainly a merit in looking at that option. But as you undertake to do this in the business community, is there other avenues of coordination that we could possibly look at that could have some impact on our provinces for the better?

Now I look at some of the examples that the current Bill has shown, and it talks about the administration. It talks about the fact that all three provinces are agreeing to this. And you got to ask, on some of the understandings, interpretation of the other two partners, namely BC and Alberta, what are their positions on a number of fronts? Have we heard any information from them? We've heard from this particular minister, and he's

saying that there's great co-operation from our two other partners in this New West Partnership. But we haven't heard, Mr. Speaker, what exactly their aspirations are around this Act and how they interpret this Act from their perspective.

Now again, I go back to my earlier statements. Are they going to insist that Saskatchewan follow their standards on a number of other fronts as part of this Act? Is this Act part of a larger picture under the New West Partnership? Where are things at when it comes to the bigger top of mind concepts such as the environment? And we don't see any connection here and no, certainly, comments from the minister in relation to those challenges.

And that is why it's important to take the time, as I've mentioned on all of the Bills that we've spoke about yesterday, to take the time to consult with all the groups, take the time that's necessary to see where the labour groups are on some of these fronts, to take the time to see where the other jurisdictions, how they perceive this particular Bill, to take the time to see how the business community may like this Bill. And I'm assuming that they probably like it, but is there other areas that they would be concerned with? And these are some of the things that's really, really important.

Now the premise that we want to support our business community is great. But as we all know, we have to make sure that we balance that particular aspect of the economy with things like the environment and certainly things like having access to a skilled labour force. That's also very important in building this brave new economy. And that's one of the reasons why we should have a lot of respect for the labour unions and the groups that provide those particular skilled workers. So have they had any consultation with that particular important group? Has the environmental sector, have they had any discussions on this New West Partnership?

So all these Bills that are being proposed, as innocuous as they may seem at the outset, there are some motives that we do suspect would be contrary to Saskatchewan's health. And that's one of the reasons why the opposition is certainly going to take the time to look at these Bills and seek consultation and seek advice from a number of groups that would be actively involved.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I always sit back and listen carefully to what the ministers have to say because at the very least, you know, we should afford them the opportunity to explain what their Bills are. Now has the minister consulted with any other group outside of this Assembly, like the chamber of commerce? Have they had any consultation with them? The small-business associations, have they had any comments from them? There's a different organization probably for a lot of the aspects of this Bill. Have they been in touch with any of those other corporations that may have some timely advice for this particular Bill?

And that's what's also very, very important I think overall, is to make sure you have some good discussion. And there may be things in there that we can add to strengthen the Bill. There may be things that we need to delete to strengthen the Bill. There's different ways and mechanisms, and we can't assume that in the Assembly itself that we know everything and we can provide all

the answers to the questions people have. And that's why it's important to reach out, and that's why we question the minister as what kind of consultation did he have on this Bill with a number of other groups and organizations that are out there that this Bill would impact.

So, Mr. Speaker, without question I am going to tell the people of Saskatchewan that as an opposition we are and will take the time. We are going to see if there's groups out there that'll like this particular Act. And if they like this Act, as I mentioned yesterday, come on to the Assembly, send us letters of encouragement, and saying this Act is good based on this part. And equally we need to ask the different organizations out there that if there's certain parts of the Act that they do not like, to also contact the opposition because this is important for us to make sure we hear from both sides and all the parties on this Bill and other Bills.

Now I think one of the things that's really, really important is the whole New West Partnership. As a single Bill, as a single item that this government keeps speaking about, we don't seem to have a single, major presentation from that government saying, here is our Bill on the New West Partnership and here's all the different aspects of the Bill that we think that the people of Saskatchewan ought to see and ought to have the opportunity to really, really begin to assess whether this New West Partnership is good or bad.

[14:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, as long as we have some of these one-offs in terms of some of these particular Bills, then it begs the question: why aren't they bringing in a major Bill to talk about the New West Partnership? Why isn't all this coming forward in one solid opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to have a look at this? And not just have it done in the Assembly. Have your public hearings, and have those that like the idea of this particular Act be at the Assembly and have other people that may not like this Act also be at the Assembly. Why can't we have the public process to really determine whether the New West Partnership, which this Bill is part of, is really what the people of Saskatchewan want? Because what we fear on this side is while on one side it may be great, a great opportunity for the business community, in theory there's a lot of other aspects of business that are attached to this file. We would like to ask those questions, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard from a few groups on the New West Partnership, and what they fear is exactly what a lot of people in the back of their minds are fearing — that if you take the Saskatchewan Party and put them against the Conservative Party in Alberta and certainly the Liberal Party in BC, what will happen is you're going to have those two bigger economies dominate our little Saskatchewan Party caucus. And what will happen is a lot of the Saskatchewan Party interests will be totally forgotten, and it will be simply one of the minor players in this New West Partnership. And that's the fear that the people of Saskatchewan have. That's the warning that people of Saskatchewan are giving us, and that's the warning that we ought to heed, Mr. Speaker.

So I don't have the confidence necessary to see the two or three ministers travel to Alberta and say, look this is our deal and

what are you guys thinking? Because these guys are certainly going to use Saskatchewan as best as they can. They're going to take what they can from Saskatchewan, as much as they can. And they're also going to make sure that they use us for our weak aspects of labour as an example, and try and use that standard for the rest of Western Canada. And that's one of the worries that we have as an opposition when it comes to this New West Partnership.

So, Mr. Speaker, no matter what the minister proposes, that this is all part of the puzzle, this Bill is all part of a puzzling strategy by this government. Why don't they just come out and tell the people of Saskatchewan in one major Bill what the New West Partnership is all about? And why don't they, why don't they simply bring that forward to the people of Saskatchewan? And the opposition can certainly have a look at that Bill and have a look at it in a very public way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure we take the time, as I mentioned, to look at this Bill, and certainly from that perspective I move that we adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Athabasca adjournment of debate on Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 7 — *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les coopératives*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce second reading of *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011*. This is a bilingual Bill that reflects the same legislative requirements outlined in *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendments Act, 2011* with respect to co-operatives to support streamlined business registrations and reporting across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia as part of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the New West Partnership is a far-reaching economic partnership designed to foster prosperity through meaningful interprovincial collaboration, and will build on Saskatchewan's opportunity-rich economy and competitive business environment. Working together has allowed the three provinces to harness its strengths and use our tax dollars more effectively to make the region a more attractive place for businesses and workers alike.

Our agreement with Alberta and British Columbia to streamline the requirements needed to start and operate businesses across the three provinces will make it easier to do business in the West. Effective July 1st, 2012, businesses registering as a corporation will no longer need to register separately in each of the three jurisdictions. By amending all of Saskatchewan's business statutes, including our co-operatives legislation, we will be ready to expand beyond business corporations after

2011. By choosing extraprovincial as an option when they register in their home province, co-operatives will automatically be registered in the other two westernmost provinces, and registration fees for the other provinces will also be waived. It also allows co-operatives to file one annual return in their home province instead of three separate returns.

Mr. Speaker, streamlined regulations and processes across the three provinces will produce great benefits for the business community and for government. It will reduce the administrative burden on governments and businesses. It will provide cost savings to reduce registration requirements and elimination of annual reporting other than that in their own home jurisdiction. It will reduce impediments to trade and investment in the West. And it will ensure equal treatment for all businesses regardless of their home province.

Mr. Speaker, as the administrator of Saskatchewan's corporate registry and business registrations, Information Services Corporation is focused on ways to streamline processes across government with the goal of reducing effort and costs for businesses and government. ISC is working closely with Alberta and British Columbia to ensure compatible policies and regulations and common data exchange processes are developed together for the July 1st implementation date for corporations, with the expectation that other types of business entities such as co-operatives will be brought on board by 2013.

Mr. Speaker, there is another aspect of this legislation that is not related to the New West Partnership that will also support streamlined services to the Saskatchewan business community through ISC's business portal initiative. The first phase of the business portal is up and running now. Business Registrations Saskatchewan website provides one easy-to-use online process to complete the steps required to register a business in the corporate registry. It will also allow employers to register for workmen compensation board and it will also register provincial sales tax with the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide ISC with the ability to add Canada Revenue Agency business number as an identifier to facilitate the sharing of information among the three levels of government — municipal, provincial, and federal. The Canadian revenue agency already has agreements with five other provinces and several federal ministries with respect to the use and exchange of the business number — a nine-digit number assigned to the business that registers with the agency.

Using the business number will provide a common identifier, making it easier to interact with multiple government agencies and support the overall goal to expand the business portal to provide a single point of access for most business services provided by government. Mr. Speaker, this legislation, related to the New West Partnership and the Canadian revenue agency business number, is another step in this government's focus to provide more convenient and cost-effective means to deliver government services to business.

To be competitive in attracting businesses and support the growing private sector, Saskatchewan must improve its online service to business. These initiatives will enhance services and make it easier to do business in our province by streamlining processes across government, ultimately reducing costs for

businesses and government. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to move that *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for the Information Technology Office has moved second reading of Bill No. 7, *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to once again rise to offer our comments and certainly offer my perspective on the Bill that the minister has proposed. And that's exactly the earlier comments I made, Mr. Speaker, is that this is another Bill that's brought forward in terms of the New West Partnership, that they are trying to do as a government. And when you piecemeal presentations like this to the public, it really begins to beg the question: why aren't they bringing forward a major file to have a debate and do it in a very public manner in which people that may like it or may not like it can come forward and offer their perspectives and offer their opinions?

That is what's really important, Mr. Speaker, and that's another example when you talk about *The Co-operatives Act*. Like I'm not sure if the minister had the consultation with the different co-ops that exist in Saskatchewan and those that use the online service now to register their business. How is that going to impact these co-operatives? Is there going to be any kind of change of ownership or dominance or any of those questions? That is not being answered here at all, Mr. Speaker. And you look at whether, again, you throw in the streamlining argument, you know, that the Sask Party likes to use. And that's fair enough. If you're streamlined, do you go to workmen's compensation, to PST [provincial sales tax] collection, or tax collection?

Nothing wrong with streamlining, and especially if you're going to do it where it really enhances the business community. We're all for that, and as you know, as I indicated in the previous Bill, as a government we undertook to make sure we streamlined all the rules and regulations, and that we actually tried to restrict regulation and bring some of those, some of those regulations down as much as we can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question I have is, how many co-operatives are being registered with this minister now? What is the primary function of some of these co-ops? And again, when he puts this Bill forward, is there going to be other, other co-operatives that will be negatively impacted by this particular Bill? Because it appears at the outset that this is simply going to happen: that if you register in one province, it's going to happen, it's going to be recognized in all three. Now is that going to have an impact of a co-op here in Saskatchewan, that they might not want to have other co-ops from the other jurisdictions register? Does that bring a competitive disadvantage, you know, to them?

So where is Saskatchewan in the scheme of things when you look at the population of Alberta — what is it? — two and a half, three million? And BC's four times our population. How does that impact our economy? How does that affect our co-operatives? And the list kind of goes on as to all the questions that different groups have out there, Mr. Speaker.

And that's one of the reasons why, you know, again you go up and you look at the Bills itself. They do seem to have very little information here; it's on three or four or five pages. And when people of Saskatchewan, what they really want to have is a very thorough explanation as to what impact this particular Bill, the New West Partnership may have on this Bill. And that's exactly what the opposition is arguing for, Mr. Speaker.

So to the minister that just spoke on the Bill that he's presenting here, we need to have that data. We need to have the consultation phase that he had with some of the co-operatives and the different associations that are involved. Does this affect how we develop our co-operatives in the future? And these are some of the questions that we have at the outset as a opposition caucus.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you look at the challenges, and I'd use the word, co-operatives. Does this restrict the co-operatives that may be formed outside of Saskatchewan? Like for example, if BC decided to set up a freshwater co-operative of some sort, does that subject Saskatchewan to adhere to some of the rules and regulations around registering a water co-operative in BC? Does that make Saskatchewan subjected to those kind of business practices or standards, Mr. Speaker? And we don't know that.

And I understand that the Premier spoke and said that water is not on the table in terms of some of these discussions. But you've got to understand is that you've got populations that are three, if not four, times bigger than us that are eyeing our natural resource base here in Saskatchewan. And if you don't think they don't want all the resources we have, then you ought to think again.

And that's one of the reasons why there is a bit of a lack of confidence, certainly from our perspective, when you look at what exactly does this Bill impact in terms of the co-operatives development in our province and other provinces. Because we have to find out what the residual action of some of those other jurisdictions will have on our province, and I don't think that work has been done, Mr. Speaker.

So I would point out that the . . . We thank the minister for the information and the presentation. And we need to know some of the bigger questions attached to this New West Partnership and some of these smaller Bills that they're positioning the co-operatives now, they're positioned in the small business community in terms of streamlining opportunity to become part of this partnership. Now we have a whole whack of questions to ask before that's done. Before you position all these groups and organization to be part of this partnership, have you answered the bigger questions? And I don't think that work has been done at all, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

And we spoke about water as one of the points. And if you look at the challenge that we have in our area, Mr. Speaker, in the northwest in general . . . And I know that a lot of people in our region, they begin to worry about water quality, land quality, and certainly air quality, when it comes to some of the activity associated with the Alberta oil sands, the tar sands project. While they talk about Fort Mac [Fort McMurray] in particular,

we know that it's not just in that particular area. It's all throughout the northern part of Alberta where the impacts and certainly the pollution is being felt in the northwest part of Saskatchewan.

Now does this co-operative movement, does this Act here, does that limit our argument as a people and as a province? Does that limit us to saying that we can't go after them on the environmental front? And that's exactly what my point is when we talk about some of the partnerships that that party is speaking about. How does this restrict us on environmental liability? How does it restrict us on the standards of care for the workers? How does that restrict us in terms of having things like water being on the table because we are dealing with bigger economies and more populated provinces?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would be encouraged if the minister, alongside his colleagues, would get up and say, well this co-operative process, while it's a small piece of the major puzzle attached to the New West Partnership, we have had assurances on many other fronts — whether it's an environmental front or labour laws or whether it's protection of worker rights, whether there's non-competition in certain sectors — we have all that figured out. And what I fear, Mr. Speaker, is that they don't have it all figured out, that there's many more things that they may have thought they had it figured out, but there are times when people come to the table from other provinces and other jurisdictions and they have ulterior motives when it comes to dealing with Saskatchewan. And we must make every effort to protect our province and the resources and the people as we can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I use the example of the environmental standards that I worry about. And one of the things that people ought to know is that there's research being done right now in my area when we find out that 70 per cent of the pollution of the oil sands activity in northern Alberta is being felt or is being dumped onto northwestern Saskatchewan. You know, that has been clearly identified where the westerly winds that bring all that pollution to our region. And right now the people of the Northwest are saying well, based on this New West Partnership that they're talking about, is there assurances of cleanup? Are they going to make sure that they mitigate all the damage to our lands? And is anybody monitoring those effects? And right now I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is nobody monitoring those effects. They have four or five of those strategies and that's it.

Now does this New West Partnership, does it limit Saskatchewan's ability to go tell these guys that we don't like this idea, we think it's a terrible idea? We haven't even set the standards in terms of the baseline, in terms of what activity is occurring to our lands as a result of some of the oil sands pollution to our region. And the baseline that has not been established yet. As each year passes, Mr. Speaker, the idea that we can identify a baseline as to what pollution is occurring, it'll start moving up. And the more time we waste not identifying that baseline, the less opportunity that we have to prove to the Alberta government that their activity is polluting our land and that they should be held responsible for that and cleaning up that land, Mr. Speaker.

And that's exactly what I fear when we talk about the New West Partnership. Are we losing something in this whole

process and certainly in the Sask Party's hurry to get this agreement done through Bills like this when the larger questions and the larger pieces have not been addressed? And that's exactly why, Mr. Speaker, that we take our time to make sure we look at this Bill to see what the impact and what effect that it has on the big picture of the New West Partnership and to say, look, these little pieces that may be great for business — and we're not arguing that — but you should have the bigger questions addressed.

You should have the bigger answers prepared. You should have had the public consulted. You should have all these things figured out because, rest assured, if Alberta or BC have an opportunity to pull the wool over that government's eyes, they certainly will. Because if it's an advantage for them, they'll take advantage of our Sask Party government. And you'll see the challenge that we face after that and whether it's worker safety or whether it's environmental standards.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it'd be nice to know that this Bill had far-reaching effect and impact and consultation with 20 different departments of this government. But it doesn't. It's one-offing on one aspect of the Bill where they talk about streamlining. And at the outset, that's exactly what this government does: it talks about the small things that people can grasp on without answering the bigger question of what challenges does the New West Partnership offer our province?

So I think overall whether it's the environment or worker safety — whether it's ensuring that there's good collaboration by the entire different departments, and that there's things like environmental protection not being forgotten — it's about worker safety, making sure water's off the table. These are tons of the questions that we have when it comes to the New West Partnership, Mr. Speaker.

And that's exactly why these Bills when they come forward, our role as an opposition is to engage the public, to warn them that this could happen and to ask them to heed our advice by doing two things: is paying attention to the file; and secondly, that there's certain aspects that you don't like about this particular file, to let the opposition know and join us to fight some of the aspects of this particular Bill so that Saskatchewan can be strengthened on its position when it comes to that government's determination for this New West Partnership, even though they may not have had all the bases covered, Mr. Speaker. And that's an important message that I want to share with this Assembly, and I want to share with those that are listening.

So again I would say that there's many more questions we have, many more comments that we have, and I would ask that we adjourn this debate, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca has moved adjournment of Bill No. 7, *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 8 — *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Information Technology Office.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce the second reading of a Bill that will enhance services to the customers of the land titles registry. *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011* outlines legislative requirements that will enable Information Services Corporation to simplify processes in the land titles registry by creating a document storage library that will reduce the number of duplicate documents that are required to be filed with the registry.

Mr. Speaker, ISC is a customer-focused organization that regularly consults with its stakeholders. This enhancement to service is a direct result of consultations with representatives from the legal and financial sectors who will use the document storage library the most, and the library is being designed specifically to meet their needs. These customers requested that a process be developed that allows them to file standard form terms and conditions and remove the current requirement of submitting duplicate documents with each transaction.

The document storage library will also provide better search capabilities and access to documents for use in the land registry transactions. The functionality of the library will improve the ability of ISC and its customers to manage files and documents of all types of transactions including mortgages and leases, interests in such easements and assignments of rent, and various authorizations such as court orders, power of attorney, and letters probate. The ultimate benefit will be quicker and easier submissions of land transaction documents through all channels: online, by mail, and by fax.

Mr. Speaker, it therefore gives me pleasure to move *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for the Information Technology Office second reading of Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again am pleased to join the debate. And certainly I want to point out that the Bill, which is primarily *An Act to amend The Land Titles Act, 2000*, the focus of this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker, is what the minister referred to as a document storage library. And I would assume that much of the information that he's speaking about may be stored on disks. It may be stored certainly in written form, in filing cabinets, and so on, so forth. And to looking at establishing a document storage library may be a great idea.

But the key thing about how user friendly is this service, is it meant to add more fees to what people are trying to do online? Because I know many people out there that are trying to look at land transfers and so on and so forth and begin to use the land titles services, there's a lot of questions, you know, that they certainly have. And while this document storage library may be a great idea, we need to know how that improves services. And as the minister certainly alluded to, he spoke about the

consultation that he's had with stakeholders. And I certainly wouldn't mind knowing who the stakeholders were and what their opinions on how to improve this service would be enhanced with what he's described as a document storage library.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in my area there's a lot of people that struggle with the land titles issue. We know that there is tons of problems. We know of some people that have had titles in their parents' names for years because the parents never had a will, that this land issue is up in the air, and they can't afford the fourteen or fifteen hundred dollars that is necessary to hire a lawyer to do the transfer. And what kind of legal advice . . . You know, as we know, legal advice doesn't come cheap. So a lot of them, what happens, the whole system grinds to a halt when there is not a clear title as to who the land should be transferred to nor the resources to figure this out.

There's examples of how we've seen spouses of people that have passed and the title is in both their names. And that again is another problem because they don't have the will nor do they have the financial means to hire a lawyer to determine who would gain access to this property.

These are some of the questions that I immediately had when this minister brought forward this whole Act to amend *The Land Titles Act*. And I was assuming that this would certainly enhance some of the services because the ISC, the parent company I guess of the land titles service, I think they're a fine organization. I think they're doing wonderful for the province. And I think all the streamlining and all the investment of dollars, taxpayers' dollars, to make sure that the ISC operation work well, I can tell the people at the Information Services Corporation has done a tremendous job. They have done a great service to the people of Saskatchewan.

But there's still a lot of questions. While they can process applications, there's a bunch of questions that other people need to address. And while the document storage library may be set up and it may be enhanced and developed by the ISC, there's still a bunch of folks out there that have a bunch of questions as to how they could access ISC services to finally resolve some of the long-standing issues around who owns what property or not.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to see how the document storage library would assist people that are trying to figure land titles transfers overall. And that's something that's really important because they obviously want to have the historical information available and as an added service, but there are still some gaps in the service that I think need to be enhanced.

How user-friendly is the online service? Does the public have opportunity to go into the storage library and look through documentation there? Is that option available? I didn't get that information from the minister and that, I think, is certainly important for the people to hear.

So I think overall if you look at some of the challenges, whether it's financial challenges that people have or whether it's a will that has not been written or poorly understood or poorly crafted, that there is still some significant loopholes or areas of confusion, if you will, that ISC I think has to certainly act upon.

And while the document storage library is one aspect of that, there's probably seven or eight that could be enhanced and certainly seven or eight that could be of service to different groups of people that I spoke about earlier.

[15:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering again what the role of the document storage library might be about. ISC, as I mentioned in its early years, I think the gentleman that proposed ISC and brought ISC into being here, I think, was none other than the minister of the day at that time, was the Hon. Eric Cline. As we all know, Eric Cline worked hard to build ISC. There was great, great criticisms on behalf of the opposition in those days, and that was the Sask Party opposition. They were very, very critical of ISC saying, this is costing tons of money and that it wasn't going anywhere. And they were complaining about how much the CEO [chief executive officer] was making. They were complaining about the process. They were complaining this thing will never work, and on and on and on about how the world was falling apart because ISC was born. And man, oh man, Mr. Speaker, that was the worst thing under the sun.

And typical of this government, Mr. Speaker, very typical of them, they don't recognize any of that early work, the work to establish ISC that this minister is speaking about and the work to build the economy that they claim credit for. And our side, we look at them and we say yes, go ahead, claim away. Claim away. We don't mind, but please don't mess it up because every person in Saskatchewan, every intelligent person in Saskatchewan knows exactly who built the economy and who built the vital cogs of the economy such as ISC. And, Mr. Speaker, it was none other than the New Democrats. And, Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of that. And we sit as a member of a nine-member caucus, but we know in our hearts and our minds, as many people out there know, that it was us that done the work. It was the people of Saskatchewan alongside of the NDP that rebuilt everything, and those guys are just great pretenders that are claiming credit.

And I notice, Mr. Speaker, even the Premier does that. He puts on this ready-for-growth speech. And all of us over on this side of the Assembly are sitting, oh okay, here goes another I-done-it campaign. But the people of Saskatchewan know the difference. They know the difference. And they are . . . The jury's out, Mr. Speaker. The jury's out on what these guys are made of in this term, Mr. Speaker. And we will see what happens, Mr. Speaker, in this term. We will see what happens in this term.

And they laugh at that, Mr. Speaker. They laugh at that, and that arrogance will soon be a problem for them, Mr. Speaker. And that's why it's important for us to continue telling people that their arrogant attitude right now is going to become a problem for them. It'll become a burden for them, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're paying extra careful attention to the New West Partnership and how this Bill, how this Bill is going to impact the future of Saskatchewan.

Now I point out at the outset that we need to have the information as to which organizations that that minister had consultations with. He spoke about it. He mentioned that he had

consultation, and we're pleased that he did. But we need to find the information to see exactly what the consultation was about, who was consulted, and what their position was. And was there any of the groups that he consulted with, were there any concerns raised or any issues flagged? We don't have that information, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why it's important that if we do have organizations and people that were involved with that and they felt that they were not heard, to tell them that you do have the official opposition that you can contact and share that information with, so everybody has their opportunity to bring forward any information on any aspects of this government, including this Bill, the Information Services Corporation Bill which is really *An Act to amend The Land Titles Act* of 2000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I go back to my earlier comment of how some families are struggling financially. They're unable to afford a lawyer to do a lot of the land transfers that are being undertaken or that is necessary for a number of reasons. And we're doing our best to certainly help them. And we have, we have a great number of confusion out there and a great number of cases. And that's why it's important to bring up these issues as we have the minister bring up different Bills or Acts within his portfolio, to tell him that, okay great, that perhaps the storage library idea is a great idea, but we need you to address these other issues. And that's why it's important that we take the time to raise those issues, to look through the Bill, to see what they have forgotten or what they ought to have put in there. And that's one of the reasons why the opposition is very pleased to be able to take the time and reach out to different groups because that's exactly what we're here for, is to oppose this government and to make sure that what they're proposing, that there isn't any ulterior motive and that they're not forgetting that the people of Saskatchewan have other wishes and challenges within each of their portfolios that they have not met.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, I'll take my place but I want to make sure that we adjourn the motion to deal with Bill No. 8, *An Act to amend The Land Titles Act, 2000*, to adjourn the debate.

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 11 — *The Court Officials Act, 2011/*
*Loi de 2011 sur les fonctionnaires de justice***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 11, *The Court Officials Act, 2011*.

Court officials play a key role in the effective and efficient operation of the courts in Saskatchewan. From the local registrars who accept statements of claim to the clerks of the

Provincial Court who administer oaths to witnesses in criminal matters, these officials ensure the people of Saskatchewan have an effectively run court system.

The current legislation has not been substantively updated since 1984. In the meantime, significant changes have taken place in the operation of courts. *The Court Officials Act, 2011* reflects those changes and the evolving roles played by court officials.

The Bill establishes two new court officials, the registrar of the Provincial Court and court transcribers. The current legislation does not contemplate the appointment of a registrar of the Provincial Court. The Ministry of Justice and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court recognized the need for such a role by creating the position of executive legal officer of the Provincial Court in 2008. It is appropriate that this position be reflected in the legislation as the registrar of Provincial Court.

Various statutes and rules of court establish responsibilities for the registrar of the Court of Appeal, the registrar of the Court of Queen's Bench, and the new registrar of the Provincial Court. However, the current officials Act does not provide an effective delegation of authority or a backup system in the event that one of the registrars is away, unable to act, or when a position is vacant. The new Act establishes a delegation structure and defines the relationship between the registrars to assist the courts to operate effectively when these situations occur.

In 1984 most court proceedings were recorded by court reporters using shorthand. Today evidence in court is recorded electronically and then transcribed by private transcription agencies. This change is reflected in the new legislation by eliminating the role of court reporter and by creating a new court official called a court transcriber who is responsible for transcribing evidence recorded in court.

The current legislation also sets out the hours that various court offices are open to the public. The provision has been updated to allow the hours of opening for the court and registry offices to be established by minister's order rather than by legislation. This change will provide flexibility in setting the hours of operation to meet the needs of the court and its users. This Bill also contains consequential amendments that update the names of court officials and the references to this Act in various bilingual statutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 11, *The Court Officials Act*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 11, *The Court Officials Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise on behalf of the official opposition in this Assembly and to speak about some of the proposals that the minister spoke about under Bill No. 11, *An Act respecting Court Officials and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that really stood out as the minister spoke about some of the changes that he is proposing is setting hours

as per the minister's direction. Mr. Speaker, I find that a bit confusing as to . . . You have your offices that are, court offices that are set up and you have standard hours, I'm assuming. And now some of the Acts that are putting in place is that he, as a minister, gets to set hours for the different courthouses. Now I'm wondering, where is that coming from, and what's the logic behind that?

And now, Mr. Speaker, he spoke about the powers of the registrar in having an assistant to do some of the work that's necessary. And during his presentation we looked at the Bill and we quickly picked up a few things that we needed to share with the public. And I think a lot of people out there know that the court system has its own diagram, if you will, of who does what, when, where, and how to ensure that you have the proper process of law. And I'm assuming that the police are there to again lay the charge and to investigate the crime. And they're also there to make sure the people are going to court, and they really assist the prosecutors. And of course the prosecutors present their case and their job is to prosecute the folks as they see fit. And certainly the judges are there to determine whether the prosecutor is right or whether the defence person is right in terms of any trial.

Now I'm assuming that some of the people that they have identified here when they talk about the court officials are the inspectors, the registrar, and now he's talking about an assistant registrar which will help take care of all the information, perform other prescribed duties, advise and direct court officials in the provincial court. And again I'm reading as we go along that:

12(1) Every local registrar of a court shall, for that court:

- (a) enter, record, issue, register and receive all court documents as required by law;
- (b) file all documents related to actions to his or her office;
- (c) make any returns required by law;
- (d) keep under separate headings a record of all proceedings taken in any cause or matter and an account of all fines, administrative fees and monies payable or paid into court;
- (e) deal with the moneys that are [left to be] paid into court in a manner directed by a judge or, in the absence of a direction, in a prescribed manner;

He or she is also required to:

- (f) attend all sittings of the court or of a judge in chambers unless the local registrar's attendance is dispensed with by a judge; and
- (g) perform any other prescribed duties.

And certainly a second part of what they're doing as the local registrar is:

(2) All records and accounts mentioned in [this] clause . . .

are to be accessible to the public.

So the registrar will make sure that what he or she does, as I just indicated, the public has access to that and that certainly that's their role.

So it begins the question about, how many different players are there? There's an inspector; there's a registrar; he wants an assistant registrar — and all this in the name of making sure that the court system works well. And some of the points of the Bill that he's described that sometimes that there isn't the necessary assistants that are available to make sure that the registrar does their job in court, and that's one of the provisions of this Bill, as I understand it.

And certainly as I mentioned at the outset of some of the other Bills, we need to know what the total effect, the impact on the justice system in terms of the cost. And if there is a cost, does this hurry the process of justice up, which I think a lot of people might want to see that. But we say fine, it's nice to be able to not have the courts tied up for years on some of these matters. It's nice to have it great if justice was speedy, but you've got to make sure justice is still justice. And that's one of the reasons why I think we want to make sure we take the time to look at this Bill and see where things are at.

It's a Bill that has a lot of information attached to it, which is great. And I think that's important. The point that he made in terms of explaining what person does what, when, where, how, and what they're supposed to do, I think that information is very helpful, and that's some of the information in the Bill itself.

But I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, that we need to have a lot more of the information as to what's being presented here. We need to know exactly how many assistants are needed, and has this been a complicating factor in the delivery of justice, and that it doesn't compromise justice. Those are some of the things that we need to ask as we look at this Bill.

And of course the only thing that I was a bit worried about right at the outset is the ability for the minister himself to set hours for some of these courthouses. And I'm just wondering where that comes from. It's not clear as to why he's putting this as part of his Act because obviously it needs to be further checked out. And I think a lot of groups and organizations need to have that information as to why this is being proposed in this Bill.

So on that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to look through the Bill. We're going to continue consulting with different groups out there. We invite the different groups out there to give us their opinion and to see where this Bill is going.

And as I mentioned at the outset of a number of other Bills that this particular minister has proposed, that we'll continue to be paying due diligence and to make sure that what is being proposed is not being used in some other fashion to accomplish other objectives that are not complementary to the people of Saskatchewan and other groups affected. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate.

[15:30]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on *The Court Officials Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 17 — *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2011*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move the second reading of Bill No. 17, *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2011*. *The Child Care Act* to promote the growth and development of children and to support the provision of child care services to Saskatchewan families is jointly assigned to the ministries of Education and Social Services.

Research identifies quality early childhood education programs can improve child outcomes whereas poor quality programs do not show these positive effects. It is one of government's priorities to increase the number of quality early learning and child care opportunities available for families who wish to use them. Children are in child care for up to 10 hours a day during a critical time in the child's development. Both the quality of interaction with caregivers and the quality of programs are critical if we are to meet the needs of the child as well as the needs of the parents to go to work or to go to school. We have increased child care spaces in this province by over 35 per cent in four years, and we are continuing to develop new, licensed child care spaces. The Premier promised that the allocation of new, licensed child care spaces will continue to be a priority, with a promise of an additional 2,000 spaces over the next four years.

Ensuring that government-funded child care centres adhere to a certain set of standards ensures accountability for public dollars and for the safety and well-being of the children. It ensures that the licensed child care facilities, in which children spend a large portion of their day, are safe, healthy environments where they can learn, play, and grow.

Although not frequent, there are times where a person may disagree with a decision made by the ministry regarding their child care facility licence and request that the decision be reviewed. According to section 23 of the Act, the minister is responsible to review decisions with respect to licensing. There is also a provision for the minister to request the family services board review decisions. However no such board has ever been established.

Typically, as a delegated authority for the minister, the deputy minister of Education performs the responsibility for the review of licensing decisions when requested by an individual who wishes to dispute the licensing decision made by the ministry's staff. Past practice has been that the request for a review respecting a decision may be made to the office of the deputy minister. Upon receipt of the request, the deputy minister or a delegate will review the decision. The deputy minister or the delegate will confirm, reverse, or vary the decision and provide

a written copy of the reasons for this decision to the individual. Since *The Child Care Act* passed in 1990, there have been approximately seven requests for a review respecting a licensing decision. Each of these reviews was performed by the deputy minister of the time either in the Department of Social Services or the Ministry of Education.

We are proposing that *The Child Care Act* be amended to remove references to the family services board as a body that reviews decisions respecting child care licensing since this board was never created and is not required for this purpose. In 1990 when Saskatchewan's legislation was passed to include reference to a family services board, a number of the other provinces had legislative provisions for reviewing of licensing decisions by a review board. Currently, however, other decisions have adopted a variety of approaches from having no appeal process, to having a review board, to a process similar to the one described earlier. This wide variety of processes signals that our choice for this province is really about our needs for the volume of requests that we are receiving. The current legislation with the proposed removal of the family services board gives the ministry ample ability to effectively deal with requests we receive. This change will in no way interfere with any person's right to an impartial and timely review of a licensing decision.

We also propose amending section 27 of *The Child Care Act* to provide authority for regulations which will allow the provision of grant and subsidy rate increases approved through the provincial budget while amendments to the regulations make their way through the process. Currently *The Child Care Act* does not contain the authority to make retroactive regulations to establish new funding rates as of the new fiscal year. At present the earliest possible coming into force date is a day of which the regulations are filed with the registrar of regulations rather than the new fiscal year for which they have been approved. If the provincial budget intends for a grant increase to be effective April 1st, yet amendments are not filed with the registrar of regulations until September 1st, ministers orders or orders in council must be used to provide adjustments for the interim period.

By amending section 27 of *The Child Care Act* a minister's order or an order of council will no longer be necessary. When the authority exists to make retroactive regulations using the same scenario, operating grant rates could be adjusted effective April 1st to the new rates, pending the regulation amendments coming into force. Child care facilities would benefit from the proposed amendment to section 27 as it would allow grant increases to be implemented effectively immediately.

Discussions have taken place with the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Child Care Homes Inc. on the proposed amendments and they are supportive. As I mentioned earlier, *The Child Care Act* is also assigned to the Minister of Social Services. We have consulted with the Ministry of Social Services, and they also support these amendments.

I am pleased to move that Bill No. 17, *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2011* now be read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Education has moved second reading on Bill No. 17, *The Child Care Amendment Act*,

2011. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course again I'm very pleased to stand up today to speak and respond to this particular Bill 17 which is an Act to amend *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2011*.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly hearing what the minister has to say in terms of the early childhood learning value. There's no question that as we know in government, and certainly they know as well, the value of investing into family and to children and early learning is something that is very, very important for Saskatchewan. And we all see the advantages of that.

The big question that we have . . . the differences we have is we had more investment into that particular field than that party did, but they're beginning to realize how important early childhood learning is, and which I can certainly go on for a number of hours on the value of things like early childhood learning, on the values of providing licensed child care service and certainly what it does for working moms and dads that use these services and how it helps the economy. And kind of the list goes on as to how great this whole concept of family supports would be, Mr. Speaker.

And when you look at the early childhood learning as the minister has spoke about, there are tremendous values in putting children as young as possible — and of course when you say, as possible, there is a number of different organizations and professionals that determine that — but having them in a learning environment as soon as possible is something that is incredibly valuable.

And I'm blessed, like many other people are in this room, to have watched your own children grow but now your grandchildren grow and how much more intelligent — and some would say better looking — they are than us. But certainly I would say that they are more worldly and they know more about things that when we were their age. They're leaps and bounds ahead of us. And I think that certainly goes towards the importance of looking at early childhood learning and what incredible value that that investment has for our children, and not so much for the working parents who use these services, because that of course is valuable as well, but more so to the child.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's always a thing that I take a very special look at when I look at my own grandkids as they visit me. And I should point out that when I babysit, I never get paid for it. I'm kind of keeping my hours as I'm promised I'll be paid. But I watch as they interact with games. I watch as they even watch programs on television that are good for them that the children pick up things so fast. You know, I have many, many hours with my grandchildren, and it's amazing what they pick up, and it's amazing what they're able to do. And it's actually, I think, makes you really feel good as a grandparent that they have these opportunities and that they're much more, as I mentioned at the outset, much, much smarter than us and a lot better looking. And that's what you've got to hope for as a grandparent.

But the thing about it is that while I'm lucky in that sense, Mr.

Deputy Speaker, there are many other families that need that opportunity as well. And while my children aren't involved with daycare or my grandkids aren't involved with daycare, I know that they've had the access to daycare, and I know that they've had the advantages of early learning, and it's just incredible as to what they're able to pick up.

So in that regard, it's really important to watch what this government is doing as you look at what the minister is proposing to do. She indicates that in terms of having all the different aspects of evaluating some of these services, in particular with the licensed child care spaces, if there's problems with the provider, where do they go? They just go to the deputy minister, as she spoke, you know, certainly as I understood it. And now they can go to a family services board. And that there's different ways of making sure that they're paid, whether there's a subsidy rate increase or a different timetable. We need to look at all the proposals that the minister has spoke about to make sure that one thing doesn't happen and that these proposals don't hurt, or won't hurt in the future, some of the great strategies attached to licensed child care spaces or the early childhood learning opportunities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the questions I have at the outset in terms of the family services board: how will the structure . . . how will this board be structured? How many members are you going to be selecting to be on that particular board? And as I understood it again, this family services board would hear, would have the opportunity to hear some of the arguments that if some certain board doesn't meet qualifications, that they would have the opportunity of going to this board and certainly appealing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I question the timetable when you look at the subsidy rate increase. What's the purpose behind that? It may be great. I haven't got that information readily available, but we need to know some of these questions.

And there was consultation by some of the groups, as she mentioned, and I think that's important that that consultation be undertaken. But we also need that consultation as well because a well-informed opposition is something that would be of value to this Assembly. And that's the offer that we always, constantly make at different groups and organizations out there because some of these matters and some of these issues are way too important to be partisan.

And that's why it's important that we encourage them to come forward with the information that they feel is necessary or some of the gaps that they feel are out there in terms of making sure that this is a better service. So I would point out that the family services board, we really need to know what the concept or the makeup of this board is, how the selection will be made, who will be involved with that. Will there be some administrative or some departmental officials involved with this?

And when we look at all these aspects, you begin to wonder, you know, the board itself, like how much protection does it have? How many professional people are on this board? Like these are the questions that we have. Because when you're dealing with such a sensitive issue as children and the care of children, there are so many different things that you have to watch out for and be very careful of.

I know from a number of times that the different officials that work for the, whether it's the Social Services portfolio or the Education, that their information and their professionalism is valuable. So you know, many times there, they are to protect the minister to make sure that you're not doing things that would be untoward in terms of your responsibility as a minister in your portfolio. So these quality people that have a great amount of experience and training, you know, they know what they're doing. Now how does that compromise them? Or if it doesn't compromise, how does a family services board, how does it complement what they have been able to do thus far, and that's in terms of making sure that there isn't any major foul-up in the minister's role?

[15:45]

Well, Mr. Speaker, again I can go on about the early childhood learning and the value of that. We see evidence of that in a number of communities. When I say communities, I'm talking about the non-Aboriginal community, First Nations community, the Métis communities. It's just amazing as to all the values that are being taught in these facilities.

And it is our desire and our hope that not only will we protect the current programs that are out there now, that we actually build on them and strengthen them. Because what I foresee in the future is you're going to have a strong group of young people, young children that in 10 years from now we'll see the benefit of some of that work, that as these young three- or four-year-olds turn to become 13- or 14-year-old young adults, that they'll really begin to build a brave, bold new Saskatchewan. And there's nobody on this side of the Assembly that's arguing with that because we all have great confidence in our future.

And things like early childhood supports, such as the licensing of child care space or even the programs to teach children things earlier, those need to be protected, enhanced, and built upon. And when you have ministers that are involved with that particular aspect, you have to really be careful to make sure you take the time, make sure you take the time to see what is being done and ask if there's any negative impact on this decision. Is there a way and means in which the government could walk away from their responsibility? Is there a way that you could actually reduce the amount to this new process? And that's exactly what we need to ask. And that's certainly the questions that I have at the outset.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the value of the actual program that the minister alluded to, and the overlapping between Education and Social Services on this whole front, that in itself too is kind of a problem because you can see the value of why the role is in learning. And then yet you see some of the actions in Social Services and you wonder where the collaboration, and certainly the co-operation, how we can build a better system.

Now do we describe these ministers as associate ministers of child care in general? It's difficult to ascertain that at this time because there's so many different ways and means in which different groups deal with these groups, with these children. And you have Education's aspiration. You have Social Services' aspirations. And it just becomes certainly a challenge

overall once you start thinking about it. But the key thing is we keep our focus and our mind on the value of the child itself and the early childhood learning tools that are available, the licensing daycare, those are all the subsidy attached to that. Those are all valuable things that we need to make sure we protect.

So in that regard I think there is no question in our mind that the value of any investment into early childhood, whether it's learning or licensed daycare is a tremendous value and importance to the future of our province, as it is important to the future of our families and certainly our children and, in my case, my grandchildren. You just see the tremendous value.

So in that regard, we have to make sure we take the time to look at the make-up of this family services board, the processes that are in place now. And is this used to take an increase in subsidy from one group to another, and all of a sudden you start seeing a degradation of the service? Those are some of the things you want to be very, very careful about and pay very close attention to. And certainly that's one of the purposes that we have when we want to take the time to understand this Bill.

So, Deputy Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member of Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 17, *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Member: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 12 — *The Court Officials Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*

The Deputy Speaker: — Thank you. I recognize the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 12, *The Court Officials Consequential Amendment Act, 2011*. This Bill consequentially amends a number of English language statutes that refer to court officials or to *The Court Officials Act, 1984*. There is one amendment in particular that I will bring to your attention. *The Coroners Act, 1999* is being amended to update the section dealing with the recording of evidence at coroner's inquests.

Unlike court proceedings, the evidence given in coroner's inquests is still often recorded by a court reporter using shorthand or a recording device. The new provision creates the role of official reporter who is sworn in by the coroner before recording the evidence at the inquest. The official reporter also prepares a transcript of the proceedings if requested to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 12, *The Court Officials Consequential Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 12, *The Court Officials Consequential Amendment Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again when we look at this particular Bill, we know that there are different parts of the justice system that the Minister is certainly paying some attention to. And some of the Acts and some of the amendments, I think we want to be extra careful in terms of what the whole purpose behind some of these Acts are, whether it is meant to speed up justice or whether it is meant to do fairly to the justice system what a lot of people ask for, and that is to make sure that the process is fair and that we don't try to rush through some of these things.

What Bill No. 12 is trying to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for those that may be out there listening to what Bill No. 12 is . . . And it talks about this Act, it may be cited in *The Court Officials Act*. And what it mainly deals with, and this is what is a bit of a concern to me. The short title it says:

“Recording of evidence

53(1) In this section, ‘official reporter’ means a reporter who has taken an oath and made a declaration pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) Before recording any evidence, a reporter shall take an oath or make a declaration before a coroner that he or she will accurately report the evidence.

Number two:

(3) An official reporter shall record the evidence or any part of it by shorthand or by a recording device.

(4) The coroner shall sign the transcript of the evidence taken by an official reporter, and that transcript is to be accompanied by an affidavit of the official reporter that it is a true report of the evidence.

And:

(5) The evidence taken by an official reporter need not be transcribed unless a transcription is ordered by:

- (a) the minister;
- (b) counsel appointed by the minister to act for the coroner at the inquest;
- (c) the chief coroner; or
- (d) any person who:

- (i) requests a transcript; and

- (ii) pays the official reporter the amount that a court transcriber may charge pursuant to *The Court Official Act, 2011* . . .

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's pretty straightforward in terms of what the court reporter does. And certainly we know we don't see anything untoward in this particular Act. But what kind of concerns me is on page no. 2, and that's why it's important that we go through the Act and we go through the time to see exactly what the impact and effect of any Bill may be on this Assembly, but more so on certainly the delivery of justice.

On the second page it talks about amendments to different Acts like different clauses under *The Court Security Act*, they've

amended and struck out a few words. And then they talk about *The Creditors' Relief Act*. Again they amend and strike out a couple of words. And then they talk about *The Executions Act*. And I'm not sure that *The Executions Act* certainly doesn't talk about executions in general. It talks about the delivery of written documents. And again there's some changes there. And then it talks about amending or striking out, inspector of legal offices, and then it talks about subsection 4(2) which is *The Pre-judgment Interest Act*.

So certainly there's a number of other Acts that this impacts, and we need to take the time to make sure that the information that the minister presented and certainly the other consequential amendments or Acts that are impacted, that there isn't anything untoward in this particular Bill. And that's why it's important that we take the time to review it and see where this is going. And that's something that we certainly look forward to doing, and again, offering advice to the public to come forward if they have concerns about this particular matter and to seek our own legal counsel and legal friends' advice on this Act to make sure that this is nothing that we should worry about. So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 12, *The Court Officials Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 15 — *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks today, I'll move the second reading of Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011*.

The Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing is responsible for helping ensure that buildings in the province are built to the highest safety standards. *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, or UBAS, adopts the National Building Code of Canada as the minimum standard for construction, renovations, additions, and change in use or occupancy of buildings. Although the provincial government adopts the National Building Code for the province, municipalities are responsible for enforcing the code within their jurisdiction, that is, they are provided autonomy with respect to whether they would like to adopt more stringent standards as well as autonomy to decide how those standards will be enforced.

Currently the UBAS Act exempts farm buildings, including houses, from being required to meet these building standards. At the time this legislation was created it was thought that applying the National Building Code to farm buildings would be an added burden to the farming community. Today that thinking has changed. The farming community now believes

that they're being treated differently because their health and safety isn't being addressed through application of the National Building Code. My ministry has heard that many in the farming community would like to ensure that their homes and other buildings are built or renovated to the same standard as the non-farming community.

I should point out that there are provisions in the UBAS Act that do allow rural municipalities to apply building standards to farm buildings. The rural municipality must pass a resolution and request a regulation change. Government must then consider this request and amend the regulations. This regulation change will then apply building standards to farm buildings in part or all of their respective municipalities. However, this provision only applies to rural municipalities. Cities, towns, villages, and resort villages are currently unable to apply any building standards to farm buildings that might be located within their jurisdiction.

The legislative amendment I am proposing today will remove the need for government to amend the regulations every time a rural municipality wants to apply building standards to farm buildings in their jurisdiction. It will also extend this autonomy to all municipalities. With these amendments a rural municipality, city, town, village, or resort village will simply pass a bylaw declaring that the building standards apply to farm buildings in all or in part of their jurisdiction. By removing the need for a government regulation, we speed up the process while reducing unnecessary administrative work across government.

I should point out that although this proposed amendment reduces the administrative burden, it is not a deregulation of building standards. That is, it does not remove the requirement for municipalities to submit their bylaw to the province for review. This important oversight will continue to ensure that building bylaws conform consistently throughout the province, providing residents with the minimum standards for safety and security.

Since 1990, 20 rural municipalities have been granted regulation changes so that they can apply building standards to farmhouses. As you can see, simply allowing municipalities to apply the National Building Code across the board through an amendment to the Act makes this process less onerous on the farming community, less onerous on government, and ensures consistent protection across the province.

Amending the UBAS Act so all municipalities can apply the National Building Code to farmhouses through their building bylaw would serve several important purposes. It would honour the autonomy extended to municipalities under municipal legislation, it would provide an adequate mechanism for applying building standards, and it would simplify the regulatory burden on municipalities. The result: safer, more secure homes, buildings, and communities that support this government's commitment to safety and security and the growth of prosperity and opportunities in partnership with local government.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has been consulted on this amendment and has confirmed its support for the amendment. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The*

Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011 be read a second time.

[16:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has moved second reading of Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to stand up today and certainly give our perspective of the Bill that the minister is proposing, *An Act to amend The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act and certain regulations*.

And, Mr. Speaker, I listened intently to what the whole intent of what the minister was proposing to do with this particular Bill. And again as I understood his motion and his update that what he wanted to do was allow the communities to determine whether some of their buildings should be subjected to the uniform building standards that the country has, and that we certainly don't want to see the challenge of poor houses and poorly constructed buildings on farm property be exempted.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister may or may not know, but there has been a great amount of challenge in the First Nations communities and certainly in the northern communities and many Aboriginal communities and many smaller communities where this problem has not warranted this kind of attention.

I've been to homes in northern Saskatchewan. I've been to First Nations homes where there's mould growing on the walls in some of these houses. And I would assume that that uniform accessibility and certainly the standards, the standards Act would apply to these homes as well.

So while it's important for us to say that there should be no farm community, no farm family subjected to poorly constructed homes or dangerous homes or dangerous buildings. We agree with that 100 per cent on our side, Mr. Speaker. We certainly agree with that.

But the problem we have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the fact that this problem is rampant all throughout Saskatchewan now, this despite the fact that this government has enjoyed spending over \$40 billion in the last four years. So while it's nice to determine that you want to have uniform accessibility standards and for all the community, for all the province, you need to make sure you have the resources and the commitment to follow through with some of the things that you are proposing to do today with this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Now I would assume that the minister in charge of public safety would have discussions with the minister of Sask Housing. Because under her watch, we've seen very little action on addressing substandard housing and construction of those homes or health hazard of homes that are currently in existence, on top of what the farm families may be suffering through, Mr. Speaker. So when the minister talks about uniform building and accessibility standards Act, I'm assuming that he's talking about safe, safe houses for the farm families and safe houses for

all, all the people of our province. And that's what's really important.

And he's had discussions with the RMs, and I'm not sure whether he's had discussions with other groups. So it's nice to be able to indicate that you want to have standards of housing construction right across the province, as for the national codes and in consultation with SARM, as I understand it, and certainly in consultation with a number of organizations and involving everyone and making sure that the farm families are included in this process. Nobody's arguing that safe, safe homes are necessary for all families. Our point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the fact that you've got to take care of the current problem that's showing up in Saskatchewan right now and has been despite the fact that they've had \$40 billion over the last four years.

So my whole point is it's great that we see the attention and focus on farm buildings, and I'm assuming farmhouses as well, that we don't want to see farm families subjected to these kind of dangers. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where that minister's been for the last four years, but we have been talking about problems of safe houses and trying to make sure that they have safe accessibility to these houses for a number of families all throughout Saskatchewan for the past four years and that we've been speaking about and we have identified as a caucus.

Now certainly we want to show this particular Bill as much interest as we can. And how are we going to show this interest, Mr. Speaker, is how much money that they're affording this process. It's nice to declare that. It's nice to declare that they're going to do some of these things. We want to see what kind of money that they are affording this process. And once they come forward with that particular money of setting up the standards Act, the accessibility standards Act, we want to see where they got that money from, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And not only do we want to see where they got that money from, we want to see whether they made any progress on other fronts, the fronts that I spoke about: First Nations homes, northern homes, small villages homes, whether it's right across the board. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want to see what they're doing as well.

So while the minister can certainly talk about accessibility standards and uniform building codes and so on and so forth for the farm families, we support that. We support safe homes and structurally sound homes for every person in Saskatchewan. That's what this is about, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I think it's important for the minister to know where we stand and that's why it's important that we're going to show extra attention, extra careful attention to what the minister is going to do to resolve this problem. Because right now, based on some of the activity that he's had under his portfolio, which I assume — public safety, structurally sound homes, safe homes free of mould — I would assume that he would have some overarching or some overlapping responsibility to his colleague, the Minister of Sask Housing.

Because I can tell you right now, there are severe problems in the First Nations communities, in the northern communities, in the small villages and towns around our community, around our cities, and in the inner cities where we see these problems are very persistent. And that's the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that when you have Bills of this sort that want to

identify a problem and resolve that problem, we say, great. It's a great opportunity, and we hope every farm family has access to safe homes and certainly from the accessibility perspective, from the safety perspective, from the structural perspective, we would support that 100 per cent.

But you have a lot of other problems in other areas that you have not taken care of. And what we hope this doesn't happen as a result of this minister's Bill here today in recognizing this problem and trying to bring these uniform standards right across the board, that he doesn't do what we think he's going to do and start taking money from other programs and forgetting some of the other groups that have been struggling with this issue, to try and resolve one issue that is politically motivated. And, Mr. Speaker, I hope that's not the case. Because if that's the case, if that's how this government's going to act and this minister is going to respond, then we've got some serious problems, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some very serious problems. And that's why we want to pay extra close attention to this particular Bill.

Now I've been travelling throughout Saskatchewan for many, many years and, as I mentioned earlier in some of the comments I made, I think I have a great view from my vehicle window. Sometimes I'll use the van. Sometimes I'll use the car. But as I leave the city, you know, I drive through rural Saskatchewan and I go to the forestry fringe. Then I go to the North — the forest area. And I'll tell you, it is a very, very beautiful part of the province, every section. And every place I go there is challenges in many areas, and we have to make sure that we respond to them all in a fair and consistent manner.

And I can remember the words of our former premier, Lorne Calvert, when we had a challenge over highway allocation. And it is very clear when Mr. Calvert told all his cabinet ministers that we will govern for all of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, at the time there was a commitment made for Highway No. 1. When I was the minister of Highways, I think we spent more money on highways in that member's constituency than in that member's constituency, Mr. Speaker, the member from Cumberland. Why? Because it was about safety. It was about priority. It was about making sure that we responded to a challenge that we had with No. 1, the Trans-Canada Highway.

And there's challenge and problems in the Cumberland constituency as well. We worked to address some of those as well, but there was pressing priorities that we had to make decisions on. And that's why we sit here and we smile and we smirk when that member begins to be critical of the former government. Unbeknownst to him, the former government put a lot more resources in highway construction in his area than me and the member from Cumberland's area because it was the right thing to do based on the volume of traffic and the horrific accidents in that area, Mr. Speaker.

The reason why I'm making that point, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is my message to him. You govern for all of Saskatchewan, and if you start politicizing how you're going to enact this particular, the intent of this Bill where you talk about uniform accessibility, you talk about safe homes — you better start dealing with some of the issues. If you're going to take on one battle, you should have the other battles resolved and committed to as well. And you should not begin to try and take from one to fix another problem because if you do that, then I'll

tell you, there's going to be a lot of groups and organizations that are going to be looking for that particular Minister of Public Safety, Mr. Speaker.

So it doesn't matter what is being proposed in Bill 15. The main thing is the actions of the government to respond to that, and that those actions are not contrary to other people's interest and other groups' services because if that's the case, then what's happening is you're politicizing the whole theme behind public safety. That is to ensure that families everywhere — farm families, northern families, First Nations families, small rural community families — have the same kind of attention, same kind of focus, and that they're not fighting over dollars that I would suggest that he may try and take from one source to meet the needs of this source, Mr. Speaker.

Because I'll tell you if I was a reeve of an RM, I would declare this tomorrow morning that we should have these national uniform standards. And the reason being is that I was hoping that many of the farm families that may have unstructurally sound buildings or a building that may be of threat to their family, well I want that fixed too pretty fast.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the concept is great. We support safe farm families and safe buildings on farms. And as I mentioned at the outset, if I was a reeve, I'd declare this in a heartbeat because it is hoped that these guys, the current government, would come along and help resolve that problem. Because what's the use of saying we're going to have these standards and nothing happens? I'm assuming that the minister has a plan to resolve the shortcomings that a reeve would say, well, Mr. Minister, you declared it national standards and so what are you going to do about it? We need you to put your money where your mouth is.

So we need that support. So if you want to have these standards set up, and you want to have the ability for Reeves to or RMs to address this matter and to work with the government on that, I'm assuming that you want to be part of the solution. You can't just declare some of these standards and then walk away from it.

So I would say to the people that may be listening on this — the SARM people or the Reeves or the people in the inner cities or the people in small towns and villages around the cities or the First Nations communities or northern communities — this minister's proposing a uniform building and accessibility standards Act that would really deal with some of the unsafe farm buildings and farm homes. And we're saying we applaud that effort.

But always remember that every single family in Saskatchewan ought to deserve the same kind of treatment and focus, and they need to resolve those issues as they resolve this one. And they had better not be taken from one group to pay for another because we'll be watching what this member does with this particular Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So on that notion, there is not a lot of, not a lot of trust that we have in what the minister is proposing, primarily based on some of his comments across the floor and some of his actions and some of the things that he's proposed. And that's why I tell the people of Saskatchewan that you have to be careful what Bills

are coming forward and how we respond to this and to take the time to understand these Bills and to take the time to talk with the stakeholders. Say, what does this mean for your RM? What does it mean? Have you been given any guarantees? Is there going to be an end date? Like the Minister of Health likes to talk about targets. Is there going to be a targeted date that this is going to be resolved?

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that what's important is that we ask those questions, we take the time to understand the Bill, and more so, we watch very carefully the intentions of certain ministers, with this minister being a very special focus on some of the things that he is trying to propose because, Mr. Speaker, we always have some dubious discussions about some of the intent of this particular minister and other ministers as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would want to point out that he could, as a minister, he could identify the problem, which is what ministers should do, and as a first step, that's great. But you've got to watch the consequential actions of this minister and this government because you want to make sure that there's fairness and certainly vision and uniform application of what he's trying to do with this government, with this Bill. And that's kind of where we're quite worried as to what this minister may do.

[16:15]

And as I mentioned at the outset, as the Deputy Speaker and as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] here, we know where the problems are. We know what the problems are out there when it comes to housing and standards of housing, safe, structurally sound homes or buildings in all of our communities. And the farm families suffer it as others do.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to pay very close attention to this Bill. We're going to pay very close attention to what this minister does with this Bill and again to point out to the people that he governs for all of Saskatchewan. As I was reminded time and time again by our former premier, we shall govern for all of Saskatchewan, not certain sectors, not certain groups. And that's why it's important that we pay close attention to what is being done. And that philosophy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of governing for all of Saskatchewan, that member, that minister from Wood River, benefited from the vision and the planning and the direction of our former premier, Lorne Calvert. And that's why I would hope that he'd hold the same standards of the one individual that benefited his riding when it comes to governing for all of Saskatchewan and apply the same concepts as he's proposed in his Bill to all of our province, and that includes the North, rural, cities, and the list goes on.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 15.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 16 — *The Correctional Services Act, 2011*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At the end of my remarks, I will move the second reading of Bill No. 16, *The Correctional Services Act, 2011*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 16 proposes repeal of *The Correctional Services Act, 1993* and introduction of the 2011 legislation. Beyond amendments to the Act, most recently the one that enabled the ministry to implement its inmate telephone monitoring system last year, it has not been the subject of a thorough review since it came into force in 1994. The 1994 Act was in need of modernization to be consistent with language used in other provincial and federal legislation and to provide a clear and explicit legislative base for how Corrections does its business.

The specific intent of this legislation is to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and inmates, to ensure the security of correctional facilities, to make inmates and staff more accountable for their actions, and to create operational efficiencies. The new Act is consistent with one of my mandates from the Premier as Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: to continue to advance *The Road Ahead* report to improve safety and security, staff performance, correctional practices, and infrastructure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you recall, *The Road Ahead: Towards a Safer Correctional System* was the government's action plan to improve the security and safety of Saskatchewan's correctional system. It was developed in response to the external investigation team's 23 recommendations arising out of the investigation into the escape of six inmates from the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre in August of 2008. These recommendations centred on operational improvements and systemic changes, including a call for a review of our legislation to ensure alignment with the ministry's mandate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will provide an overview of the key ways this proposed legislation meets the commitment for safer and more secure correctional facilities. Then I'll spend some time going over the details of its content.

The Correctional Services Act, 2011 aims to improve security in provincial correctional centres in a variety of different ways, strengthen search and inmate disciplinary provisions, recognizes two different forms of segregation — administrative and disciplinary — recognizes the legitimacy of involuntary inmate transfers as a means for managing emergencies, and authorizes inmate security and risk assessments.

I should point out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a section on principles was included in the proposed Act. The key features of these guiding principles are: protection of the public is paramount; offenders are required to comply with correctional facility rules and community supervision conditions; offenders are entitled to fair treatment; and staff members adhere to a code of professional conduct. We believe these principles reflect ideas and values that are widely held, accepted, and respected. They will improve accountability and assist with the

interpretation and administration of the Act and regulations. Other jurisdictions such as federal corrections and the correctional systems in Manitoba, Quebec, and the Yukon have included similar sections on principles in their own legislation.

In my opening remarks I talked about clear and explicit authority being enshrined in the legislation. Some examples of where that is evident is in the language around remote monitoring of inmates including video surveillance; establishing non-contact visits as the visiting standard, thus reducing the opportunity for smuggling contraband; language authorizing setting minimum standards for the frequency and type of searches; language specific to the legal authority for searches of inmates, inmate areas, visitors, staff, or vehicles on correctional centre property, including the use of canines under certain circumstances; and expanding drug testing provisions to include sampling of bodily substances.

Other proposed provisions include the ability of an inmate to have an adjudicator hear an appeal of a decision resulting in the inmate staying in the facility past their regular release date.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a new provision of the legislation speaks to a code of professional conduct that all corrections staff is required to follow. A code of professional conduct has been developed and rolled out province-wide. It is intended to help deal with some of the cultural shifts required to improve security in our correctional facilities. Enshrined in the code are professional and ethical standards that all staff working in corrections are expected to abide by.

The language for this new provision is adapted from Newfoundland's legislation which was assented to in May 2011 but is not yet in force. A professional code of conduct using language similar to Newfoundland is also referenced in the Yukon's legislation, newly revised in 2009, and in Nova Scotia's correctional legislation proclaimed in 2005. In other words, the most up-to-date correctional legislation includes this important concept. Recognizing the code of professional conduct in legislation will assist the ministry in meeting its mandate.

Substantial changes were proposed to the section on inmate discipline. The intent here is for corrections officials to establish a more efficient and flexible inmate disciplinary system that gives staff the authority to resolve minor rule violations using an informal resolution process. With this process in place, situations can be defused faster and the potential for escalation into aggressive exchanges is also reduced. Where such an informal resolution process is inappropriate or unsuccessful, major or minor offences will continue to be heard by a discipline panel. At the same time, the new Act now specifies the sanctions for inmate disciplinary infractions. Currently those sanctions are found in regulation.

In the Act, there will be higher maximum penalties for violations of major sanctions than for minor violations. A new provision of the legislation includes the ability for a correctional centre director to require an inmate to undergo a medical examination by a health care professional. Inmates are in the high-risk category for potential exposure to contagious diseases, diseases that can endanger staff, other inmates, and the public. This is why this clause has been included. Also new is the

ability of the facility director to be able to transfer an inmate to a health care facility under specific circumstances.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to inmate transfers, new provisions recognize that emergency involuntary transfers of inmates can occur without prior notification to the inmate. This is important because administrative law imposes a duty to act fairly on the ministry with respect to involuntary transfers. The duty to act fairly normally includes providing the inmate with prior notice of the transfer and allowing the inmate to provide reasons to the decision maker as to why the transfer should not occur. This can take days. But we also have a duty to protect the safety of inmates, staff, and the public, as well as the security of the correctional facility. The new section allows officials under prescribed circumstances to effect the transfer immediately and to respond to the inmate after the fact.

Over the years, some questions of interpretation arose with respect to the electronic monitoring provisions of the Act. With the new provision, there's a clear and explicit authority for the use of electronic monitoring systems as a condition of any offender's participation in any correctional services program.

New provisions in the legislative proposal create the ability for an inmate to appeal a disciplinary decision resulting in the loss of remission to an appeal adjudicator. Losing remission means the inmate will spend more time in prison, therefore it is particularly important that we provide an opportunity for independent review of those decisions. All other inmate appeals related to a discipline sanction will be reviewed by the director of the correctional facility.

I should point out that inmates also have the right to ask an investigator from a number of independent offices created by legislation to review the facility director's decision. This includes the Provincial Ombudsman, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, and the Privacy Commissioner. The legislation recognizes the value of keeping appeal hearings an internal process so that accountability and ability to manage are maintained. Thus the only appeals to be heard by an adjudicator will be those where an inmate's regular release date is changed as part of the sanction for a major discipline offence.

This new legislation will augment the existing authority already found in the Criminal Code and will ensure that corrections staff not only have the authority to use force and restraints, but they also have a legal protection when they are authorized to do so. Seven other jurisdictions have similar language in their legislation authorizing the use of force. This section is modelled after language used in the British Columbia's correctional legislation.

All inmates who enter a correctional facility are assessed for their security risk. This security assessment determines an inmate's security threat within the facility. A security assessment assists the correctional centre with assigning an appropriate security level for each inmate. However, because a security assessment may result in significant restrictions on an inmate, the Ministry requires specific legislative authority to establish the program. Once this Bill is passed, the accompanying regulations will prescribe the security assessment process.

A new section related to an inmate risk assessment program has been added to the legislative proposal. Here again the ministry requires specific legislative authority to establish and assess inmates' risks and needs for rehabilitation or treatment. Risk assessments differ from security assessments in that a risk assessment means the inmate's risk of reoffending on his or her release to the community. Determining the risk level allows for targeting of appropriate programs to address each identified criminogenic need. Once identified needs are addressed through evidence-based programming, the risk of reoffending will decrease, resulting in the increased probability of safe integration into the community.

[16:30]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should point out this addition to the legislation is in response to a recommendation out of *The Road Ahead* report. The government has committed to developing standard assessment processes to allow for increased treatment capacity for all sentenced and remanded inmates.

Existing provisions in the legislation have been revised and updated to provide clear and explicit authority for a wide range of different types of searches. For an example, revisions propose that a designated staff member can conduct a non-intrusive search, or a frisk, of an inmate without individualized suspicion in certain situations. Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about. I'll cite the situation occurring each time an inmate leaves a workshop. If there are 15 inmates working in a carpentry shop, then every single day and each time they leave that shop, they must be searched. In this case, reasonable grounds or individualized suspicions are not required.

There are other situations where a more intrusive type of search may be conducted, for an example, a strip search without individualized suspicion. The most common would be each time an inmate is admitted into a correctional centre or similarly any time an inmate is returning from a temporary absence.

Clear authority to conduct these and other types of searches — for example, testing bodily substances, which is considered a form of searching; or the use of a canine to assist with a search, with or without individualized suspicion — is now in our proposed Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the authority for searching does exist in the current legislation and similar provisions exist in all other provincial and federal correctional legislation. But times have changed, and it was important for the ministry to carefully scrutinize these provisions to ensure they support our operational needs while at the same time support the fair and humane treatment of inmates, visitors, and staff. Provisions authorizing the searching of visitors and vehicles as a means for reducing contraband carrying into the facility have been clarified. To ensure the visiting public is duly informed, each facility will have warning signs stating that all vehicles and visitors are subject to search.

On the topic of searches, the existing Act includes authority to conduct searches of employees as well as inmates. Additional wording clarifies what already exists, but we've also proposed new language that allows for routine searching of staff members

as they come and go from the facility, as well as other types of staff searches including searches of staff lockers when authorized for security or safety purposes.

The definition of contraband has been revised and is now incorporated into a new section on trespassing. This provision grants legal authority to lay charges against anyone who possesses contraband, who delivers contraband from an inmate, or who delivers contraband to an inmate. Additionally, because someone throwing contraband over a fence may not be caught with the evidence, the proposal allows action by staff who observe only the trespass onto the property and not the actual attempted drug smuggling.

The new section is a revision to language in the existing Act that complements the revisions of the definition of contraband by clearly establishing the legal authority to seize contraband and establishing a process for disposing of it. It places responsibility on staff members who have seized property to follow a process that will maintain continuity of the evidence as well as assist in the avoidance of legal claims or, because the contraband may be illegal substances, allegations of impropriety. The language is modelled after correctional legislation from British Columbia and the Yukon.

The ministry requires the authority to develop and implement a confinement and segregation policy to meet one of the recommendations in *The Road Ahead*. The current Act provides legal authority for the confinement and segregation of inmates. But as segregation is recognized as a significant limitation of inmate association, we have made the language clear and explicit. The section on segregation is modelled after the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, the federal legislation that governs the Correctional Service of Canada. Quebec also uses the term administrative segregation; Manitoba uses protective and preventative segregation. Because the federal government has faced and addressed the most court challenges on this topic, our ministry has chosen their model.

The proposal adopts administrative segregation as the method to be used proactively to prevent an incident from occurring or reactively to facilitate an investigation into an incident. Administrative segregation is a separate level of confinement with the specified purpose of keeping an inmate from associating with other inmates. Segregation review panels are proposed to determine whether an inmate should continue to be confined or detained in segregation. The proposal also adds the authority for the director of a correctional facility to hear appeals from an inmate related to the segregation panel decision.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the topic of inmates' ability to appeal decisions, a new section of the legislation takes into account inmate complaints. This section provides inmates with the ability to direct their concerns to a person in authority and outlines the basic requirements for responding to an inmate. Accompanying regulations will specify that the complaint resolution process is separate from other legislative appeal processes and will list the responsibilities of those responding to complaints about facility administration. Most other correctional jurisdictions have similar language in their legislation. Three provinces refer to this as inmate grievances. Our section is similar to the language used in Nova Scotia, and

it has been adjusted to meet our needs.

The use of remote monitoring systems — at present, primarily video and audio surveillance — has grown considerably over the years. Development of advanced technologies has enhanced the capability of existing devices, and other methods of remote monitoring are on the horizon. Here I'm thinking of the use of GPS [Global Positioning System], the same kind of device now used in vehicles to pinpoint their location and to provide accurate travel directions. Right now the language that allows remote monitoring is not as clear as it could be. Due to the nature of this type of activity and its direct implication on privacy issues — suicide observation, for an example — clear statutory authority for its use in correctional facilities will improve our ability to protect the public, our staff, and inmates. Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, PEI [Prince Edward Island], and the federal government have sections authorizing the use of surveillance and remote monitoring equipment or video recording in their correctional legislation.

The current Act does not specifically address collection of offender personal information for management, operational, or program purposes. This issue is handled in the legislation generally applicable to the government: *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *The Health Information Protection Act*. The new management of information section deals with the information in a way that is more specific to a correctional setting. The language in this section is modelled after Manitoba's legislation. An example here is the information collected on the adult corrections computer system which is based on interviews, warrants, incident reports, or program application and participation.

The revisions to the confidentiality section maintain the required confidentiality clauses of the original Act but expand on the language allowing disclosure. The revisions will assist with sharing information with the police and other correctional authorities. Details will be prescribed in regulations.

Mr. Speaker, those are the substantive parts of the proposed provisions of Bill 16. Others constitute housekeeping changes, largely updating and revising language to reflect contemporary requirements.

I would also advise that a number of groups were consulted with their views on the proposed legislation. These are all stakeholders of Saskatchewan's correctional systems whose input was valuable to the drafting of the Bill. Consultations took place with the following individuals and organizations: Correctional Services Canada, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan, FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan's Provincial Ombudsman, the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, Saskatchewan government employees' union, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I should point out that the introduction of the new Act is timely given the environment in which Saskatchewan's correctional system is currently operating. We're seeing our inmate count at its highest level in many years. Remand pressures continue to have an impact on the safe operation of

our facilities. And just under study now are the implications to our system of the federal government's tough on crime legislation.

Mr. Speaker, passage of Bill 16 will strengthen the legal framework under which Saskatchewan's correctional system is administered by helping reduce the risk of inmates escaping, enabling officials to employ a security assessment program and a risk needs assessment program, and including measures designed to improve inmates' successful reintegration into the community through the provision of appropriate programs.

I believe that through the provisions contained in this legislative proposal we have achieved a workable balance between necessary supervision and control of inmates and effective programs to help offenders return to their community as productive citizens. This is our ultimate goal: to reduce crime in neighbourhoods and communities across our province by providing corrections officials with a strong legal framework that speaks to contemporary needs in a very complex and very crucial system. Our government is keeping its promise of safety for Saskatchewan citizens. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Correctional Services Act, 2011* be read a second time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has moved second reading of Bill No. 16, corrections services amendment Act, 2011. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand today and to speak on behalf of the official opposition and to certainly give our comments, our initial comments on Bill No. 16. And I thank the minister for his fairly lengthy explanation of what is being proposed here, Mr. Speaker.

I want to also add, Mr. Speaker, that there's no question in our society today in Saskatchewan that a lot of people that have been offended by people that should be certainly in prison, they really have had a difficult time over the years looking at the whole notion of justice and saying, is it fair? Is it consistent? And they're really, quite frankly, not happy with some of the actions and activity of the justice system per se.

So over time, Mr. Speaker, as politicians begin to speak about this particular challenge, it's important that right across the board there was a consistent theme that those violent offenders, those that have serious . . . and habitual offenders, that we need to be fairly strict and fairly straightforward with them. I think that that's a constant message that people are giving us, and certainly that we're, as the opposition, we're hearing that from a number of sources, not only from victims but different groups and different leaders as well, Mr. Speaker.

There's no question that the latter part of the minister's comment where he spoke about rehabilitating some of the offenders that have the option of looking at that, there's no question that there are some offenders that you can try and help as much as you can — and some of them are, as I mentioned, very serious criminals — and try as you might, there's been very few people that have been successful, although there has been some success.

There's a lot of work that needs to be done to rehab some of the people that have been in prison most of their life. And we certainly encourage those people like the Elizabeth Fry Society, the John Howard Society to continue working with those individuals. Because as you know, people change over time and they should be afforded the opportunity to certainly rebuild their lives even though they may have shattered other lives. In the scheme of things, Mr. Speaker, it's important that people be given that opportunity, the organizations that want to help these people. So I think from that perspective, Mr. Speaker, I really want to see what the minister may have offered in the rehabilitative services of some of the people we're speaking about, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

As you know, there are some criminals or some people that go into our correctional centres that may be first-time offenders. They may be property offenders. They may be criminal or . . . They may be impaired driver offenders. Like some of the people that are there as an initial problem in terms of breaking the law, there are varying degrees of criminal activity. Some are minor, some are major. There's just a myriad of prisoners. And you have to make sure that you afford as much opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for some of these young people to look at rebuilding their lives. And that's one of the things I think is really, really, really important when you look at the whole notion of criminal activity.

Now I know, Mr. Speaker, that there is some folks that have offended our communities a great amount. There are some of the people that are in jail that, you know, deserve to be there and should be kept there because of sometimes the horrendous actions that they have undertaken, and there's no question from our perspective that we would support that notion. However, as I mentioned at the outset, there are others, first-timers. They may be there for a couple of months for impaired driving. They may be there for other minor offences that you can't lump them all together, that there must be ways and means in which you respond to these people that have less offences against the public. And that's something that's really important for folks out there.

And there's a number of reasons why. Obviously you want to recognize those associations and organizations that are helping those people that are struggling with the law. You have to also understand that the families and the offender himself may have seen the error of their ways, as long as the crime is not too serious. You need to look at those options, you know, just to reduce the amount of people that we have locked up because the fact of the matter is that there are some that should be there and should be there long-term, and there's others that should be there for a short-term basis, but we can't encourage them to become part of the long-term problem that some of our jails will find themselves in if we don't look at the notion of rehabilitative efforts for some of the people that have lesser offences and none of the violent crimes that are attached to some of the long-term people in the jails.

So I think that the important point I want to raise is that as you increase the rules and the penalties and the processes, many people out there that are listening understand that we have to have these kind of processes in place. But you've got to be also

careful because if you want to start filling up the jails with people that have lesser crimes with those that have horrendous crimes, you're going to start seeing better criminals that are being trained, more habitual criminals being trained. That's what happens when you put some of these folks long-term in jail that may have minor offences. You've got to try and separate the two so you're able to rehab the ones that have lesser or non-violent criminal activity in general.

I also want to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that when you talk to the jail guards, what are some of their points? Because what's going to happen is as you get more and more people in jail, there's going to be more and more stress on the system itself, so there's going to be more cost attached to that. And that's why, from our perspective as an NDP caucus, we say yes to people that are dangerous and violent, and they repeat, offend our communities, and they do crimes that are very hard to forgive. They certainly need to see the attention focused on them to keep them where they're at because that's obviously what the public wants.

However we also advocate the whole notion of rebuilding some of the people that have lesser charges and lesser problems to the justice system so that we can keep them out of jail and keep them productive people. There is a separation of those type of criminals. And that's what we have to make sure people understand as to where we're standing because of two things: one, the premise of rebuilding lives is really important; and two is the cost factor for some of these prisons and some of these jails. As we see those cost factors rise and some of the rules and regulations incorporated to look at all of the population in jail, it creates a lot of strain and stress, not only financially but on the people that work within the system as well.

So we're going to take our time looking at this Bill to see what avenues of rehabilitation, what avenues that we have to separate the hardened criminals versus the first-timers that may be in there for impaired driving or minor charges or non-life-threatening charges. These kind of folks out there that are caught up in the system, we need to make sure that we have avenues of support so we can rehab their lives and get them out of this rut so that they can become productive, disciplined people. That's what the important message is.

So we're going to look at the Bills themselves. We're going to have consultation. And on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the debate on this Bill. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca has moved adjournment of Bill No. 16, corrections services amendment Act, 2011. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 18 — *The Degree Authorization Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise

today to move second reading of *The Degree Authorization Act*. This proposed legislation aims to enhance post-secondary education in Saskatchewan by offering the opportunity to potentially expand degree-granting authority to post-secondary institutions other than the two universities, provided that these other institutions meet the standards required by a robust quality assurance review process.

This legislation holds three key tenets. One, it is meant to bolster accessibility for students in our province. As both our population and economy continue to grow, so too do the needs of the province to meet an increasingly vibrant labour market demand. It remains vitally important to stay receptive to the needs of students and to their aspirations and the opportunities that await them in the new Saskatchewan. This legislation provides a framework for our post-secondary system to acknowledge these needs and to deliver a response that is at once attentive to the changing needs of communities and responsible in its scope regarding quality assurance.

Essentially the Act is meant to help ensure that we are addressing a public policy void that this government inherited, and that other Canadian jurisdictions have worked to address over the course of the last several years.

Second, it ensures a robust quality assurance process. Increasingly outside jurisdictions, both nationally and internationally, are moving toward establishing quality assurance bodies within the realm of post-secondary education. These bodies provide the necessary expertise to help assess and evaluate new degree proposals. The quality assurance process gives learners here at home and those coming to Saskatchewan confidence in their decisions to attain their post-secondary education right here in Saskatchewan where we know that the degrees that have been on offer are recognized for their excellence, an excellence that has been a century in the making and a tradition that we seek to continue and enhance.

Third, this legislation protects the long-standing reputations of the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. Recently we encountered out-of-province organizations presenting themselves as Saskatchewan-based universities offering degrees for Saskatchewan residents. These degree mills offer bogus degrees that serve no use to any learner and threaten to taint the strong reputation of our post-secondary system. This legislation provides a framework to prohibit these organizations from operating within Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as other provinces have moved to expand degree-granting authority beyond traditional universities, we want to remain responsive, but we wanted to also make sure that we were consulting the public and key stakeholders to determine if such a move was right for Saskatchewan.

To this end, last spring, Mr. Speaker, we invited Alex Usher of Higher Education Strategy Associates to conduct public consultations on this very issue. He hosted a learning event to inform stakeholders of the concept as well as potential impacts of expanding degree-granting authority and to discuss the significance of quality assurance. This event was followed by written submissions and face-to-face meetings with stakeholders from across the province. The final report submitted by Mr. Usher in August of this year indicated that

there is acceptance for other post-secondary institutions to be allowed to offer degree programs as long as proper quality assurance reviews are undertaken and in place.

Yesterday I was pleased to introduce this legislation within the Assembly as part of my official response to Mr. Usher's report. Two of his six recommendations are directly addressed by the introduction of this legislation: that degree-granting authority be expanded and that a quality assurance body be established within Saskatchewan. The other four recommendations are addressed outside of the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed legislation not only provides new opportunities for Saskatchewan students and for post-secondary institutions as well as the broader community; it also ensures that Saskatchewan post-secondary education remains and maintains world renown for its quality and its excellence.

The quality assurance initiative is vitally important regarding this initiative for it will demonstrate to learners in Saskatchewan as well as nationally and internationally that we place a high priority on this rock-solid tradition of excellence in Saskatchewan's post-secondary education — a tradition, as I've said, that has been a century in the making, a tradition that under our Premier and for this government has been bolstered by an investment of more than \$2.8 billion in post-secondary education since we had the opportunity to come to office in 2007.

Our universities are doing solid work, and we don't want to affect what they're doing, especially their operations and their successes. As a result, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina are exempt from this new legislation. But in our growing labour market, enhancing accessibility in the post-secondary education sector is important just as the quality assurance process protecting our reputation is equally important. Mr. Speaker, there's an opportunity for other institutions to potentially provide specific and focused degree programs within the realm of their experience and expertise. The proposed legislation gives students and institutions more options and potentially increases accessibility to high-quality degree programs right here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, with the exception of the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, as noted earlier, the Act will apply to Saskatchewan post-secondary educational institutions involved in offering part or all of a degree program in Saskatchewan and to any degree program that is specifically targeted to Saskatchewan students through advertising.

The physical presence provision of the legislation casts a wide net on what could be considered granting a degree or offering a program of study leading to a degree in Saskatchewan. Even institutions that only appear to be based in the province are still captured by this Act. Something as small as a postal address or a telephone number in the province could constitute a physical presence, which will allow us to regulate any institution offering a degree program in connection with Saskatchewan. So students and their parents are not — inadvertently or sometimes, sadly, purposefully — that they're not misled into thinking that a degree is authorized in Saskatchewan when in fact it hasn't been.

Another way physical presence could come into play is if an out-of-province institution partners with a Saskatchewan institution in offering a joint degree program. In that case, at least one of the institutions must gain authorization and the program must be thoroughly reviewed. Once again the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina are exempted by this legislation.

Establishing such a wide scope is necessary to set a clear boundary and to protect students and the integrity of Saskatchewan's post-secondary educational system.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed legislation will allow post-secondary educational institutions other than the universities to apply for authorization to offer a degree program. Each specific degree proposal must be authorized under and through this legislation. To be authorized, an institution must undergo a rigorous quality assurance review process. We developed this process by building on the work of other Canadian jurisdictions, in particular British Columbia. The process will assess an institution and its proposed degree program using nationally accepted quality standards published by the Council of Ministers of Education in Canada and by being mindful of other best practices in Canada including those associated with the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, after putting out a call across the province for case studies, we heard from two specific institutions — SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] and Briercrest College. Using the case study approach, we are working with both SIAST and Briercrest College and Seminary to test and refine processes that will be ready by the time this legislation is proclaimed.

The Speaker: — Order. It now being after the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed till 7 p.m. later this evening.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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