



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

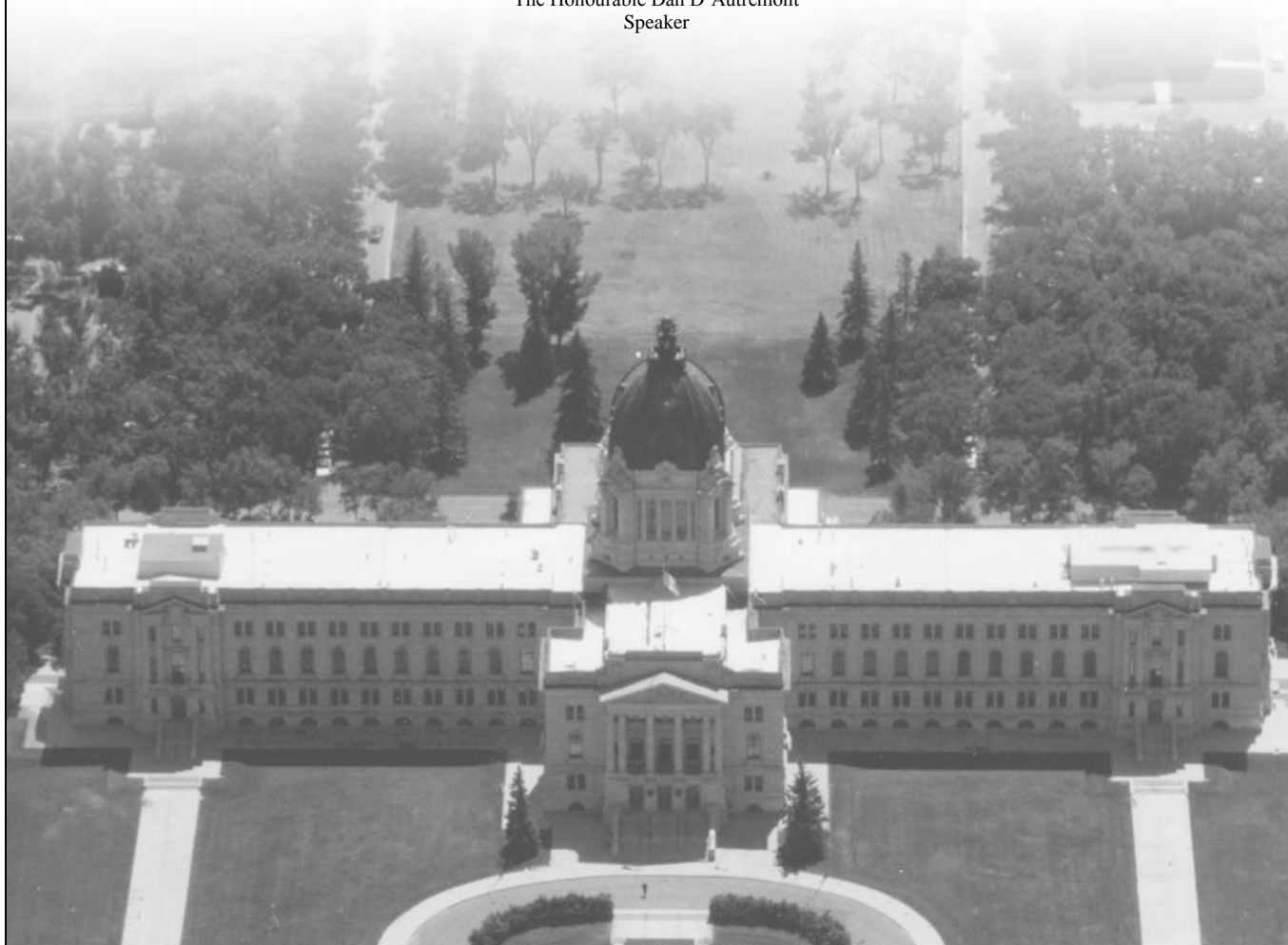
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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 Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would request leave of the Assembly to make an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has asked leave of the Assembly to make an extended invitation . . . introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The week of March 30 to April 5th has been officially proclaimed as Pink Revolution Anti-bullying Week in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Pink Shirt Day is coordinated through the Red Cross, another initiative. It's also supported by the Ministry of Education and the Government of Saskatchewan. Pink Revolution Week kicked off in mid-March, and there was a flag raising ceremony on the 1st of April, over the weekend.

It is supported by many organizations including the Anti-bullying Network, which is comprised of the Boys and Girls Club, the Avenue Community Centre, Youth Launch, restorative action program, the Saskatoon Police Service, Affinity Credit Union, and many, if not most, local school divisions.

The Ministry of Education's supporting anti-bullying efforts by working with education partners to develop a provincial anti-bullying strategy, a strategy that was pioneered under the previous administration. Work continues on that, Mr. Speaker. They encourage school divisions to work with community organizations on anti-bullying initiatives. They provide financial assistance to programs like the Kids Help Phone to ensure youth across Saskatchewan have access to professional counselling services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all the year through, Mr. Speaker.

And today, helping us remember exactly what anti-bullying initiatives are all about and helping to commemorate anti-bullying awareness in the province, is a group of students that you can easily see in your gallery from their great pink T-shirts, Mr. Speaker. They are from M.J. Coldwell School. There's a grade 6/7 class — the teacher is Ms. Dryburgh; a grade 7/8 class with Mrs. Bird as the teacher. We welcome the teacher assistants, Ms. Keewatin and Mrs. Smith. And the principal of the school is Mrs. Sherri Beattie.

Also in the gallery are representatives of the Red Cross: Cindy

Fuchs, the provincial director; Donna Brewster, Luc Mullinder, Tim Johnson, Norm Jakubowski, Diane Francoeur. Colleagues in the legislature, we want to express our thanks to these students and to the leaders of the Red Cross for reminding us of the importance of anti-bullying initiatives and awareness. Mr. Speaker, we also want to ensure that all members of this Assembly warmly welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I can't say how pleased I am to join in on the introduction here today and welcome these community leaders, these students, teachers, principals, Ms. Beattie, that have joined us here today to launch Anti-bullying Week here in Saskatchewan, to join in the Pink Revolution that certainly is driven across Canada and across North America. Pink Shirt Day, Day of Pink — all these important days and activities that bring such important recognition to something, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that we should be working towards every day of the year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you'll notice I see these wonderful pink shirts up through the Assembly. I see a little bit of pink through the Assembly and through the Chamber here today. I noticed the official opposition doesn't have very much pink on today, Mr. Speaker. We weren't notified or aware of the pink shirts coming into the Assembly here today. But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that in our hearts and in our beliefs, we wear pink every single day of the year, and stand for the important cause of bridging gaps, broader understanding, bringing around some learning, and that certainly we're proud to join with government here today to recognize such an important day, such an important week, and to work towards that greater understanding all across our society and in our classrooms.

And, Mr. Speaker, I should say that in the classrooms all across Saskatchewan is where I'm most encouraged about the changes in society, and it's this very generation before us here today, Mr. Speaker, that I think have made the greatest strides through acceptance, understanding, and in fact celebration of diversity.

So we're pleased to join with government here today and to recognize this important work. I welcome these students from Coldwell, the students, the community leaders, teachers, parents, Principal Beattie, that are here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I seek leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today and introduce through you to the House four guests that are here today. One of them is Gavin Semple who is no stranger to the people in our province, a well-known businessman with business operations across Western Canada. He is joined by three legal colleagues. They are the Hon. Michel Bastarache, Peter Gall, and Lauren Wihak from the Heenan Blaikie law firm. They are seated in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise that the Hon. Michel Bastarache joined the firm's Ottawa office in 2008 as counsel in the litigation group. For more than a decade, Mr. Bastarache served as justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, rendering rulings that spanned a spectrum of issues as well as a large number of cases related to the application of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Preceding his appointment to the Supreme Court, Mr. Bastarache served as a judge of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick. Prior to his judicial appointments, he was very involved in the academic, government, business, and legal communities. Mr. Bastarache has been awarded numerous honorary degrees and awards in recognition of his outstanding leadership in private practice, legal education, and public service.

Peter Gall is a partner and founder of the Heenan Blaikie office in Vancouver. He is well known for many areas of expertise with a focus on labour and employment. Peter is known as a leader and has been recognized by his peers as one of the country's best labour and employment lawyers. He has acted as counsel before various administrative tribunals and appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on numerous occasions. Peter is also a professor at both Stanford and the University of Victoria law school and is a regular guest speaker in Canada and abroad.

Lauren Wihak joined the Heenan Blaikie litigation group in Ottawa in 2010 as an associate. She has Saskatchewan roots. She has clerked for the Supreme Court of Canada, but more importantly, in my view, served, articulated with the Court of Appeal with Justice Jackson in Saskatchewan. She grew up in Melville and in Regina, I think LeBoldus — is that correct? — and spent a summer working at the constitutional law branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to have these three guests here today. Mr. Speaker, I have told them that all members of the Assembly will be on their best behaviour today. There will not be any heckling or any difficult questions. So I would ask that all members join me in welcoming them to the Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It also gives me great pleasure to welcome these guests to you and through you to the Assembly, particularly Mr. Semple and Mr. Bastarache, Mr. Gall, and Ms. Wihak. Certainly with Mr. Bastarache I've read many of his judgments and have great respect for the work he did in the Supreme Court of Canada. So it's an honour to have him here today in our Assembly.

And I agree with the Justice minister that, you know, heckling

will certainly not be something we would dare approach today, particularly for them, but also for the students that are here in the Assembly.

So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And with the members of the opposition, I also want to rise and welcome these guests to our Assembly today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly today, I'd like to introduce to you, in your gallery, an honoured guest today from the Government of Mauritius. The Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, the Mauritian Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, has joined the House today. He and an entourage of colleagues are in the province of Saskatchewan investigating the opportunities of mutual benefit that exist between the island state of Mauritius and the province of Saskatchewan. And I think from our luncheon conversation, he's fairly impressed with what he's seen already. And we'd like to welcome him here and wish him much success in his endeavours while they visit the province of Saskatchewan.

Accompanying the minister are Mr. and Mrs. Denis and Monique Prud'homme. They're the owners of an immigration recruiting and consulting business. I met Denis a number of years ago when he was an integral part of the Saskatchewan truckers' association, and he's moved from trucking to immigration, and I think he's enjoying this job even more.

And also with them today is Denis Simard, the executive director of L'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise. This organization represents the Fransaskois community in the province of Saskatchewan. They're working closely with the Mauritian delegation. The people of Mauritius speak English and French and a multitude of other languages, as I've learned. And I think that there's a symbiotic and mutually beneficial opportunity here for our French community and the citizens of Mauritius. Would all members of the House please warmly welcome this group of individuals in the Speaker's gallery.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais dire une grande bienvenue à l'Assemblée législative [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a big welcome to the Legislative Assembly] to the delegation from Mauritius, particularly Minister Shakeel Mohamed. It is good to see you here. We welcome the opportunity to return the visit perhaps sometime to Mauritius soon.

As well I want to congratulate the Prud'hommes on the work that they're doing to bring people to Saskatchewan — and to keep on trucking, as might be said — and as well to Monsieur Simard and all the work that is done out of L'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, the good work that is done. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through

you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to introduce I think one of my two best pieces of work. That would be my daughter Hennessey Chartier-Ford who is in your gallery today.

Hennessey is a grade 8 student at l'École française de Saskatoon and is here just . . . She hasn't been here in a couple of years and thought it was time to come and spend a day here seeing what happens again in this Legislative Assembly. And Hennessey is a great student. She's a Latin dancer. She is a great public speaker. But mostly she is a pretty awesome daughter. So with that I ask everybody to welcome Hennessey to her Legislative Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today presenting a petition calling for greater protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. We know in the early morning hours of June 20th, 2011, Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot two times and died from his injuries. He was working at a gas station in Yorkton, alone and unprotected from intruders.

We know though that positive statistics show that convenience store and gas station robberies are down by one-third since 1999, largely due to increased safety practices, including two people working together on late-night shifts. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately enact Bill 601, Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon, many of whom are actually late-night workers — in fact one was actually held up just two weeks ago. I do so present. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan people as it relates to education in the province of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to make education a top priority by establishing a long-term vision and plan, with resources, that is responsive to the opportunities and challenges in providing the best quality education and that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes; that is based on proven educational best practices; that is developed through consultation with the education sector; and that recognizes the importance of educational excellence to the social and economic well-being of our province and students, for today and for our future.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of my constituents who live in the neighbourhoods of Dundonald and Hampton Village, and it's about the need for a new school in the area:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that Hampton Village is a rapidly growing community in Saskatoon with many young families; that children in Hampton Village deserve to be able to attend school in their own community instead of travelling to neighbouring communities to attend schools that are typically already reaching capacity.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the provincial government to devote the necessary resources for the construction of an elementary school in Hampton Village so that children in this rapidly growing neighbourhood in Saskatoon can attend school in their own community.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**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 are a concern for 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, firearm use in consultation with traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by many trappers of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Pink Revolution Anti-Bullying Week

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to rise today to recognize anti-discrimination and anti-bullying

efforts in Saskatchewan. The Minister of Education has proclaimed the week of March 30th to April 5th as Pink Revolution Anti-bullying Week. This week is a Saskatchewan-made initiative coordinated by the Anti-bullying Network, a dedicated group consisting of the Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon, the Avenue Community Centre, Youth Launch, the restorative action program, Saskatoon Police Service, Affinity Credit Union, and local school divisions.

We believe that all students have the right to a caring, respectful, and safe school environment where bullying is not tolerated. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, we have worked with our education partners — teachers, directors of education, and other partners — to develop an anti-bullying strategy for the province. We've also encouraged them to work with community partners like the Red Cross and the Anti-bullying Network to take action against discrimination in their schools and communities. It's through initiatives like Pink Revolution and Pink Shirt Day that we all have an opportunity to raise awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage everyone to show their support for diversity by wearing pink on April 4th, Pink Shirt Day, and by participating in similar anti-bullying events. I sincerely thank those individuals who have the courage to stand up and speak out against bullying and discrimination. Together we can make a difference. Thank you.

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

### World Autism Day

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, today is the fifth annual World Autism Day. Iconic landmarks around the world like the CN [Canadian National] Tower, Niagara Falls, the Empire State Building in New York, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil will be lit up in blue to raise awareness about this growing public health concern.

The US [United States] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new research just last week that shows 1 in 88 children now has autism or a related disorder. That is compared to 1 in 155 in 2002. Some of that increase is being attributed to better diagnosis, but researchers attribute a sizeable portion to a significantly higher incidence. As the CDC [Centers for Disease Control] director said, "One thing the data tells us with certainty, there are many children and families who need help."

Autism Canada quite rightly says that autism is a public health emergency that requires governments to work together and to make investments in three critical areas: prevention, treatment, and support.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that by the next Autism Awareness Day not only could our own legislature be lit up in blue but, more importantly, that we as a province will have made great strides in helping those affected by autism spectrum disorders. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Prince Albert

Northcote.

### Autism Services

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to acknowledge that today, April 2nd, is World Autism Awareness Day. It is one of three official disease-specific days recognized by the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, we know individuals with autism require unique supports to ensure their well-being and successful community inclusion. Our government recognizes the importance of supporting autism intervention services. Since '07 there have been successive budget increases to support enhanced autism interventions. In the new fiscal year, we are investing a total of \$7.6 million in autism supports, including 1 million additional funding. This added funding will allow for more intensive therapeutic programming for pre-school children who require increased intensity of treatment to support their learning needs. In addition this funding supports specialized autism intervention training for professionals working in the health and education systems.

Our government works closely with community partners to build comprehensive autism service systems in Saskatchewan. These disabilities have a profound impact on our society. We all have opportunities to raise awareness, to provide support, and to be involved in addressing autism.

On this very special day, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give my gratitude to Canadian researchers who are playing leading roles in many global research initiatives to help understand the causes and develop better treatments for autism. Thank you.

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

### Saskatoon's Sheepdogs Win Juno Awards

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Music fans in Saskatchewan are celebrating today as our favourite Saskatoon rock and roll revival band, the Sheepdogs, won big at the Junos this weekend. Beating the likes of such well-known acts as Nickelback, Johnny Reid, Hedley, and City and Colour, the Sheepdogs made a big Juno splash by taking home the awards for the best single, best new group, and best rock album for the recording entitled *Learn & Burn*.

Mr. Speaker, while all Saskatchewan residents have reason to cheer the success of this homegrown talent, I'm especially proud of the fact that the Sheepdogs' drummer, Sam Corbett, grew up in my constituency, Saskatoon Nutana. And I extend congratulations to Sam and his sheep dad, Sheldon, and his sheep mom, Margi.

Mr. Speaker, the Sheepdogs' Juno haul is not the only reason to be celebrating the band's impact on the music scene here and abroad. Not only did they clean up at the Junos, but they very recently picked up four trophies at Toronto's Independent Music Awards on March 24th. I could say they were also featured as an emerging band at the Ness Creek Music Festival in 2007 and 2010, and both performances were fantastic.

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, it's been a phenomenal year for this great Saskatchewan band. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all members of the band, Ewan Currie on vocals and guitar, Leot Hanson also on guitar, Ryan Gullen on base, and Sam Corbett on drums. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my legislative colleagues to join with me in applauding the success of the Sheepdogs and to continue to support all of our province's emerging musicians, cinematographers, and artists. Thank you.

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

### 2012 Juno Awards

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night was Canada's biggest night in music. Ottawa hosted the 41st Juno Awards, honouring Canadian music and putting our Canadian artists in a well-deserved spotlight.

Juno watchers saw the performances by Nickelback, Simple Plan, and Feist and many more, while 81-year-old Captain Kirk, also known as William Shatner, kept things fun and moving along smoothly. Shatner cracked jokes and performed some classic Canadian tunes with three backing musicians.

Toronto singer, Feist, won the Artist of the Year, beating out the likes of City and Colour and Michael Bubl , for the top award. Saskatoon's favourite bar band, the Sheepdogs, were the big winners, taking home Single of the Year honours, New Group of the Year, and Rock Album of the Year.

The Junos have a history of honouring iconic Canadian groups from the days of Gordon Lightfoot, Neil Young, and Lighthouse through the decades, of A Foot in Cold Water, Leonard Cohen, Loverboy, and of course The Parachute Club. Blue Rodeo was this year's inductees into the hall of fame and they didn't disappoint, with a showcase performance featuring Sarah McLachlan.

Congratulations to all winners and a special congratulations to Saskatoon's Sheepdogs for their Juno win as well as Deep Dark Woods and Donny Parenteau for their Juno nominations. I know the Regina Juno committee is looking forward to hosting the Junos in 2013. Best of luck topping Saskatoon in 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Sod-Turning for Group Home

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House to talk about a very exciting event happening later this afternoon in Melfort. The Government of Saskatchewan and Plus Industries are turning the sod on a brand new group home for people with intellectual disabilities. The government is providing \$400,000 in one-time capital funding, \$481,000 in annual operational funding, and over \$32,000 on an annual basis towards the mortgage costs of the new facility.

In addition, Sask Housing is contributing \$137,900 to this project through the Summit Action Fund. This money will go

towards the development of four self-contained basement apartments for low-income residents. When completed, this new residence will provide Plus Industries with the capacity and program staff to expand programming and continue to support up to seven individuals from the Community Living wait-list.

This investment builds on the government's four-year commitment to eliminate the wait-list of 440 Saskatchewan people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services by 2012-13. I'm pleased to report that we are well on our way to meeting this commitment. Services for 373 people, or 85 per cent of the wait-list, are already in place across the province, and by this time next year we should have no wait-list at all.

This new facility will ensure that our most vulnerable citizens continue to receive the services they require in the community and help make Saskatchewan the best place to live in Canada for people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Change of Command Ceremonies in Moose Jaw

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Saturday was a military day of celebration in Moose Jaw, as two change of command ceremonies took place which I was honoured to attend along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and the member from Wood River.

At 15 Wing, retired Brigadier General Jim Hunter took over the command as honorary colonel from Yvette Moore. Yvette Moore is a renowned Saskatchewan artist who represented the wing in this capacity for the past four years. Her experience as a Moose Jaw business person and a strong supporter of the wing made her an excellent promoter of the Forces.

The new honorary colonel, Jim Hunter, has a long military history and has served as wing commander for 15 Wing from 1995 to 1998. He is currently the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Regina Airport Authority.

On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Dragoons, a primary reserve regiment for the Canadian Forces, also performed a change-of-command celebration as Major Brad Hrycyna retired after serving as commanding officer since 2003. The celebration was complete with the change-of-command parade and an inspection by Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Vaughn Solomon Schofield. Taking over from Major Hrycyna is Major Chris Hunter, who has served with the Saskatchewan Dragoons for the past 16 years.

Thank you for retiring Colonel Yvette Moore and Major Brad Hrycyna after their years of service, and congratulations to retired Brigadier General Jim Hunter and Major Chris Hunter as they take over their new commands in serving the Canadian Armed Forces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Federal Budget

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the federal budget was released. The budget leaves more questions than answers as to how it benefits Saskatchewan families. Budgets are about priorities. Saskatchewan people want to know what their Premier did in advance to represent Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, how did this Premier advocate with the Prime Minister prior to the federal budget, and what was the Premier's list of priorities for Saskatchewan people?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank the member for the question. Obviously we're still going through the details of the federal budget presented last week in Ottawa as to its impact on the province of Saskatchewan.

There were some specific things that we have been raising with the federal government in the run-up to the federal budget. More to the point to the member's question, we asked the federal government to make some changes to employment insurance to improve the incentives for mobility so that people living in parts of the country where there was a large, unfortunately a large dislocation economically, a lot of people unemployed, that there be more incentive for them to move to places where there are a lot of jobs. We see an indication that those changes are coming, Mr. Speaker.

We also raised the importance of one project, one environmental assessment that we would have rigorous environmental assessment, but not two of them. There is progress in the budget on that front as well, Mr. Speaker.

We've also been asking the federal government to start to increase funding for on-reserve education. We note there is some progress in the federal budget in this regard. We welcome that, and we will always work for more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, both the Premier and the Minister of Finance said they were pleased with the federal budget. Many across Saskatchewan don't agree, Mr. Speaker. They fail to see the benefits of a federal government that is off-loading millions of dollars onto the province that will result in increased costs to Saskatchewan families. Can the Premier be clear how a federal budget that increases costs to Saskatchewan families is good for our province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier has indicated, you know, there is significant analysis that has to go on. We expressed our concern with some of the changes that are projected for the Ministry of Agriculture and some of the concerns that we have. Minister Ritz has indicated that those are not going to affect the Saskatchewan agricultural programs, and we're pleased to hear that.

There's a continued monitoring of what's going on with regards to the budget and Saskatchewan. Long-term plans need to be

looked at because of the changes, projected changes many, many years from now in the eligibility for old age security. So those are all things that the Ministry of Finance and other ministers themselves from their own responsibilities will be looking at as we move forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that this was a tough budget for Saskatchewan people and this government chose to support it. It's tough on front-line services with over 19,000 jobs being cut nationwide. It's tough on health care for patients. It's tough on the next generation of retirees with OAS [old age security] cuts, those working hard today and certainly deserving of a dignified retirement, this at a time when private and public pensions are being dismantled, and it's tough on taxpayers with off-loading costs in so many areas.

The Premier gave this budget a thumbs-up. Mr. Speaker, why isn't he standing up for Saskatchewan people?

[14:00]

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as any budget, there are always impacts on what will happen in Saskatchewan. And the Premier has highlighted a number of key areas that we were concerned with, Mr. Speaker.

I, as Finance Minister in our last meeting with Minister Flaherty, was pleased to hear from him that we were going to continue with the commitment from the federal government on health transfers, social transfers.

And the other thing, Mr. Speaker, as we know, in the last couple of years we've had serious problems with moisture and flooding and all of the additional costs. And, Mr. Speaker, there's a commitment in fact from the federal government that they're going to continue with the cost sharing in many of the programs, whether they be related to the provincial disaster assistance program, PDAP, or whether they're related directly to highways, agriculture, Mr. Speaker. So all of those commitments have been kept by the federal government. As the Premier's indicated, we're pleased with some of the initiatives that have been outlined, especially in the area of Aboriginal education.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to assess the federal budget and how it will impact us not only in the short term but in the long term as well.

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

### Funding for First Nations Education

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's clear here today again that it's more excuses for the federal government and the failure of standing up for Saskatchewan people.

I'll shift my focus to education. Shamefully each Aboriginal student on reserve receives thousands of dollars less per year in



education funding than off-reserve students, massive underfunding. It's a matter of fairness and the consequences are real. The grade 12 graduation rate for Aboriginal students on reserve is less than 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The federal budget came down Thursday. To the minister: did the Aboriginal education funding meeting her government's expectations?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the member opposite for that question because we have had this a few days ago, and we are in total agreement that the federal government needs to do more for on-reserve education. I am not aware yet of how much of the additional dollars that the federal government announced is flowing to Saskatchewan, so right now we don't know the calculation of how that will affect our individual on-reserve schools.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So, Mr. Speaker, they don't know the numbers, but they think it's a pretty good deal, Mr. Speaker. The funding provided by the federal government in last Thursday's budget sounds like a lot of money, but only a small fraction of that comes to Saskatchewan, and it's nowhere close to providing fair or equal funding. To quote Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-chief Simon Bird, "It's a drop in the bucket."

Our underfunded First Nations schools struggle to retain teachers. Often they're forced to use outdated technology and resources. It's not right. It's not fair. Aboriginal students on reserve need more than a task force that is going to present recommendations next year. They need meaningful action. This is a matter of utmost importance. Why is this minister and this government failing to stand up for Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I'm going to say that this government has recognized that there is a gap in the funding that goes to on-reserve schools. We have been . . . A number of us actually have talked to our federal counterparts and raised concerns on this particular issue, but we also recognize that prior there wasn't a lot being done by our province. And we are changing that as well, Mr. Speaker, because we have put a lot of money, more money than the NDP [New Democratic Party] did, into early childhood intervention programs, which is extremely important for the early learners. We have increased our pre-kindergarten programs, many of them are for First Nations students — that is, our 3- and 4-year-olds. We've increased that over the NDP by 85 per cent.

This budget we are committing to the summer literacy camps to engage our northern students so there is no summer reading loss. We have put money towards the individual achievement accounts. We have put \$3.8 million into First Nations and Métis Education Achievement Fund. Mr. Speaker, the province is putting a lot of money into First Nations education, along with our task force.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's not the spin that Saskatchewan people are looking for. They're looking for solutions in addressing the inequity that exists. Education opens doors and provides opportunities. For many, education can be a ticket out of poverty. Eric Howe reports that Saskatchewan could reap \$90 billion in benefits and savings through health, justice, and social services, and another \$80 billion in economic growth by addressing the Aboriginal education gap.

On this, John Hopkins, CEO of the Regina Chamber of Commerce said, "It's absolutely crucial for the long-term viability of Saskatchewan, there's no question, and education is the key."

Mr. Speaker, deliberate underfunding of education for Saskatchewan First Nations, Saskatchewan citizens, is patently unfair, entirely unacceptable, and has direct negative consequences. Why does this minister accept this treatment?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I need to say that the member opposite and this government agree that the federal government should be putting more money to our reserve schools, and we feel it's very important to Saskatchewan and our First Nations students.

We don't know how much of the additional money that the federal government has announced will go to Saskatchewan, and I know that Vice-chief Simon Bird has raised some concerns of the amount. But I want to remind the member opposite that although he has criticized what we're doing as a province, Vice-chief Simon Bird is a signatory to our task force initiative and quite positive about what this task force will be able to do, first to help identify First Nation's programs that will help our First Nations students achieve better.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, last week when speaking about First Nations people, the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations said, "We will ensure that education and employment outcomes are funded."

Well, Mr. Speaker, they aren't. The federal budget provided only a drop in the bucket of what is needed. Massive underfunding continues. Mr. Speaker, not one, but two reports within the last few months have stressed the crisis and the immediate need to address the Aboriginal education gap. Shannen's dream supports this work, Mr. Speaker.

Fair funding for education is no small part of ensuring brighter futures. Why won't this government stand up for Saskatchewan students?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee the member opposite, as far as standing up for Aboriginal students, there is no hesitation whatsoever from members on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, it's not only talk, it's action. When we were analyzing the problem, we not only came up with a solution from the government side, we went to the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], we talked to their leaders, and talked about the concerns that we shared. What we did last week, Mr. Speaker, is share in the signing of a task force, not only with First Nations leadership, but with the youth of Saskatchewan as well. One hundred First Nations youth witnessed that and are working towards betterment in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Funding for Academic Health Sciences Building

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people are now quite aware of many of the cuts and fee increases that are associated with the recent provincial budget. What we don't know, Mr. Speaker, what some of the negative effects will be in the months ahead. In Saturday's *StarPhoenix*, it was reported that in the health region for example there will be about \$30 million that they will have to come up with. We know this will have an effect on cuts and service delivery in the health region.

It's a similar situation on our university campuses, Mr. Speaker, with \$100 million of debt being pushed onto the University of Saskatchewan alone. My question to the Minister of Advanced Education: what projects at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] are being funded by the \$100 million of a debt that he is forcing the university to assume?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the context is important here, Mr. Speaker. What we've seen under the leadership of this government is \$3.5 billion invested in our post-secondary system, Mr. Speaker, since we were first elected in 2007. Mr. Speaker, regarding the notion of debt financing, the members opposite know this very well because they came up with the mechanism in 2003, Mr. Speaker. That's when this began.

As far as the majority of this, Mr. Speaker, as we enter the final stages and phases of the Academic Health Science building, Mr. Speaker, so what we see is the majority of that is going to go towards the academic health science program, Mr. Speaker. That's a program that was started, supposed to be started, certainly announced in 2003. It was supposed to cost about \$120 million. But since they didn't stage the photo op until 2007, Mr. Speaker, we know that we've invested more than \$200 million. And as the final stages and phases of this project continue, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense to put some additional resource in the university but also cover the rest off through debt financing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister stated that \$72 million, I believe he stated this, \$72 million of debt is being forced on the university for the Health Sciences Building. Until

this change, Mr. Speaker, the province had been providing the funding for this important project. A government news release in, I believe it was, September before the provincial election said that the government was committed to spending over \$300 million on this project. The budget documents recently tabled in this Assembly said that to date \$215.6 million had been provided by the province. But now the change is, Mr. Speaker, that the university is forced to look for financing for the \$72 million that we know of.

My question to the minister: has his government reneged on their funding pledge to the Academic Health Sciences building at the U of S?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has made that project a specific priority. It's demonstrated, Mr. Speaker . . . Because while the members opposite spoke about it and bragged about it, they didn't do anything about it even though, Mr. Speaker, it was integrally tied to the fate and future of the College of Medicine. So, Mr. Speaker, we made sure that we put dollars on the table.

And, Mr. Speaker, evidence of that today — both D wings and E wings well under construction, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, what we've done as we enter these latter phases of that project, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that there are real dollars on the table and that the university also has options regarding debt financing, Mr. Speaker. That's prudent and practical. In no way does it indicate any lack of commitment on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. What it does do is reflect and reinforce that where the other members opposite would only speak, we're acting. We're getting it done. We're securing the fate and future of the College of Medicine for the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, my question was not whether the minister thinks that he is doing a good job on this file because most members of the Assembly know what the minister thinks on that matter. My question was specifically on the issue of funding. There was over a 300 million-plus commitment made by members opposite in September in a news release at a photo op on campus. The budget documents say 215 million have been provided. Now, Mr. Speaker, we learn that the university is told to go and get financing for \$72 million.

My question that I just asked to the minister, but I didn't hear a response, to the minister: have they reneged on the funding commitment for the Health Sciences building?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, on September 1st, 2007, Mr. Speaker, there was a progress report on how the College of Medicine was doing. And, Mr. Speaker, it was just quietly put out, Mr. Speaker, and it said this: in some key areas there was non-compliance, areas regarding curriculum

management, availability of faculty, Mr. Speaker, as well as, Mr. Speaker, the actual state and fate of the Academic Health Sciences building, Mr. Speaker.

This government stands full square behind the University of Saskatchewan, behind the College of Medicine, behind D and E wings, Mr. Speaker. We've been able to demonstrate that, Mr. Speaker. Because while the members opposite were rich in rhetoric, we've been able to ensure that these projects have moved forward, Mr. Speaker, therefore better securing the future of the College of Medicine. And that means greater services for people right across the province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite were caught with rich rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. We've just focused on real results for the people of the province.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, in the response there was no comment about a possible change of position with respect to their funding commitment for this project. Forcing \$100 million of debt onto the University of Saskatchewan's books has major implications for the U of S as well as its students. Not only, Mr. Speaker, could it come close to maxing out the borrowing capacity of the university, but it could put more financial strain on the institution in general.

This will be felt by faculty and staff and, Mr. Speaker, it most certainly could be felt by students when we look at tuition levels in the years ahead. How this debt, Mr. Speaker, for the 100 million — the 72 million for the Health Sciences building, about 100 all together — how this debt is serviced and paid will have a direct effect on the education delivered by faculty and the tuition paid by students.

So my question to the minister: in forcing the university to take on this debt, specifically with the \$72 million for the Health Sciences building, does the minister commit to paying the principal and the interest for the total amount that is being borrowed? That is my question to the minister.

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, let me quote the president of the University of Saskatchewan in an August 17th letter, Mr. Speaker, and it says this: "A decade ago, our College of Medicine faced existential issues regarding resources, faculty, and facilities, [Mr. Speaker]. The Government of Saskatchewan has done its part." That is this government, Mr. Speaker.

To the member opposite and to all his colleagues and to people right across the province, I say our track record is rock-solid — \$3.5 billion in post-secondary education, Mr. Speaker. We see that manifest itself in new facilities, renewed facilities, Mr. Speaker. We also see real investments for our students, whether it's the graduate retention program, whether it's the new Saskatchewan advantage scholarship, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we back the University of Saskatchewan. We back Saskatchewan students. We back Saskatchewan scholars. And, Mr. Speaker, our track record speaks for itself.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy that the minister is willing to wear a Huskies bunny hug. That is a good thing.

My question though is specifically around the funding and the payment of this debt. For the \$72 million for the Health Sciences building, Mr. Speaker, I've heard different things from the post-secondary community. I've heard some individuals say that the ministry is pledging to pay the principal and the interest on the 72 million. I've heard other people say that this is not the case. And it has major . . . And it is a very significant question. If, Mr. Speaker, the province is paying the principal and the interest on the \$72 million, then we must ask why that debt is sitting on the university's books and not the province's. If, Mr. Speaker, they are not paying that, there will be even greater implications for tuition and the delivery of education in the province.

My question to the minister: going through the budget document, I do not see an explicit statement about this \$100 million of debt. My question to the minister: why is he hiding this debt? Will he be upfront with the people of Saskatchewan today and clearly state whether, on the 72 million, he'll be paying the principal and the interest, the province will?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, as this government came into power in 2007, we saw that there had been a number of debts hidden, Mr. Speaker. They were infrastructure deficits, Mr. Speaker, and debts to the people of this province. And, Mr. Speaker, when it came to the College of Medicine, we saw that the College of Medicine had gone on probation, had been lifted off probation but, Mr. Speaker, it hadn't been given a clean bill of health.

There were a number of conditions that had to be met, Mr. Speaker. And the members opposite know this. Mr. Speaker, that included, Mr. Speaker, in September of 2007, just before that election, there was a report that quietly came out and it said there are a number of areas of non-compliance that still require attention and action. These included curriculum management, the availability of faculty, and of course the Academic Health Sciences buildings themselves, Mr. Speaker.

What we did was move forward, and we continue to move forward, Mr. Speaker. You can see it and the people of this province can see it with the construction that's under way, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to support the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Medicine, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue that focus.

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

### Federal Crime Legislation

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quest for a straight answer continues. We'll take the quest on down to the Corrections ministry. Before the budget, we had the federal Conservative crime Bill passed, Bill C-10. How much, now that the provincial budget has come out and now that the federal budget has come out, how much is the federal Conservative crime Bill going to cost the people of Saskatchewan? Can the Minister of Corrections answer that for us?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I can advise the House and I can advise the citizens of the province, it is impossible to say with any accurate degree of certainty what the actual cost of the effect of Bill C-10 is going to be.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the corrections facilities that we have in our province are currently at or above capacity, and there is work going on in the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to look at what is necessary for expansion. As part of that process, Mr. Speaker, I can indicate that they will also be looking at what the impact of this legislation is going to have.

The effect of this legislation will be to make our streets safer. The things that are in this legislation were requested and asked for by virtually all of the provinces. They include steps and measures that will be taken to ensure that child sexual predators are removed from our streets, that people that traffic in drugs at or near our schools are removed from our streets. And the focus must be in that area, on public safety.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we will work within the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to ensure that we have good and adequate programs for . . .

**The Speaker:** — Next question please.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting to hear the minister now and the minister, of course, before the budget. And it's hard to get a straight answer out of that minister though we know he had advice for, I assume, about the importance of knowing what the cost of the Bill is. We couldn't get an answer out of the Minister of Corrections. The Minister of Justice is continuing on with the bafflegab, so we'll try the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker.

On budget day we had a technical briefing as the official opposition. And we asked the officials at about a quarter to ten, what the anticipated impact of Bill C-10 would be on the provincial corrections system. The top Finance minister, the top Finance official in the province of Saskatchewan, the deputy minister of Finance stated that they anticipate the average daily count in Saskatchewan correction system goes from 1,400 to 1,600. So an increase of 200 inmates per day in the province of Saskatchewan. If they can calculate how many more inmates there are going to be in the correctional system, Mr. Speaker, how much is this going to cost the people of Saskatchewan? And if they can't answer that, why not?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we can pick numbers out of the air as long as we choose to. The reality of it is, you have no idea. You have absolutely no idea what judges are going to give probation, are going to either use other non-custodial measures, Mr. Speaker. The differences are very great and we don't know what they are. No one does know what they are. We know that there's going to be an increase, Mr. Speaker. It will likely be a significant increase and, Mr. Speaker, I can advise you as well that we will look to the federal government for a contribution and for them to make an investment in our correctional facilities as is needed.

We will work through to try and ensure that we have got a precise, measured, proportionate approach to dealing with crime in our province. Mr. Speaker, we want to remove child sex predators from our streets. We want to deal with drug traffic, people that traffic in drugs. We will do our best to ensure that we've got a safe province.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 36 — *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate today on Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act*. This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is probably one of the Bills in front of us in this Legislative Assembly that has some pretty profound and, in the opposition's perspective, some negative impact here, Mr. Speaker.

The two clauses in Bill No. 36, what does *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act* propose to do, Mr. Speaker? Well first of all, it adds three politicians to our already current 58 here in Saskatchewan, so it's moving the number of politicians in Saskatchewan from 58 to 61. The second part of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is excluding children under 18 out of the count when constituency boundaries are decided. So it's basically leaving people under 18 out of the election boundary count, Mr. Speaker.

I think I'd like to talk a little bit first about the first clause, the adding three more MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr. Speaker, three more politicians. This is at a cost of over one term, Mr. Speaker, millions of dollars. I know when we've gotten up in this Assembly and said that this Bill will cost millions of dollars, we get many people on the opposite benches yelling, it's not millions of dollars. Well I think that the

members on the government side of the House perhaps need to do a little bit of math — \$700,000 over four years, Mr. Speaker, is in fact millions of dollars.

And part of the problem, Mr. Speaker, first of all, is that this government . . . We've seen in this budget that was presented just a couple of weeks ago that this government plans to continue along its plan of cutting the civil service. So even though we have a growing population — and this is the government's argument for increasing the number of MLAs — they're cutting the civil service, Mr. Speaker, the people who provide the front-line services to us as citizens. So this government wants to cut the number of people providing direct services to citizens at the same time adding three more politicians, Mr. Speaker.

As well in this budget, we also saw this government's willingness to not touch its own, the Premier's own office, Executive Council. So we have a government who plans to continue to cut the civil service in this budget alone by about 500 individuals, but is willing to not touch Executive Council or the Premier's own office. There's no move, or no movement to cut Executive Council, and they also want to add three more politicians, Mr. Speaker.

I know that my colleagues and I and everybody in this Assembly undoubtedly spent many, many hours on the doorstep. And I've had the opportunity in the last two and a half years to participate in a by-election, and then following the by-election, obviously in the general election in 2011, and have knocked on thousands of doors in that time, Mr. Speaker. And there was not one single house — not one single house — not a single house where people were asking me, could you please increase the number of politicians? What we really, really need is more politicians. Nobody asked me that, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I've spoken to my colleagues on this side of the House too and nobody's heard that. So I'm not quite sure where this Premier and this government seems to think the notion of adding three more politicians comes from. As I said, I have not heard from one single citizen asking me the question, please add more politicians, Mr. Speaker. In fact the thing that I hear in my constituency office is, please improve government services. And I can tell you that cutting the civil service this year alone by 500 individuals is completely contrary to that, improving the public service, Mr. Speaker.

Adding three more politicians as well . . . I know I've heard members opposite talk about their large constituencies. And you know what? We have two members on this side of the House who have northern ridings, who probably have the largest constituencies in the province geographically, Mr. Speaker. And whether we represent a rural or an urban riding, there are both challenges and opportunities no matter what constituency we represent, and our job is try to figure out the best way of serving and representing our constituents. What that might involve, Mr. Speaker, in some of these larger ridings, is technology. Thanks to SaskTel, we have some great telecommunications, the opportunity to connect via the Internet, by Skype. We have email. There's many, many tools that can assist us in our jobs in connecting with citizens. So the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that there are all different kinds of ways.

I know even in my own constituency, one of my challenges . . . I don't have a large geographic constituency, but I do have a constituency where there are people who don't always feel like their interests and needs are reflected in government policy. So one of my jobs, Mr. Speaker, is to try to engage people and make sure people feel like they're part of the process. And again I don't have a large geographic constituency, but I have other challenges, and my job is to make sure that I find ways to engage citizens in my community. And one of them actually we've talked about in my own constituency office is perhaps, outside of the Monday to Friday workday, thinking about doing outreach on Saturdays. Obviously we are always out and about in the community, but trying to think about ways of formalizing that so making sure people have the opportunity to feel heard.

So the argument around the size of the rural constituencies I don't think holds water, Mr. Speaker. As I said, there are two members on this side of the House who do a very fine job of representing their constituents despite the large geographic nature of their constituencies. So three more politicians is not something we have heard anybody anywhere ask or request that. In fact as I said, people are more interested in getting good government, good services from the people providing those front lines.

[14:30]

The other part of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is . . . Oh actually you know what? I'd like to continue talking about the adding three more MLAs. This is something that struck me shortly after the election. I'm a mom of two kids. And I know life as an elected representative and trying to balance doing a really great job for my constituents and still being an okay mother is sometimes difficult. But I can tell you, in the last two and a half years that I've had an opportunity to serve, by no means is this a part-time job. One could work seven days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day, and still not have all the work done, Mr. Speaker.

But I find it funny that, or a bit odd that at one point in the fall this Premier, who is asking for the addition of three more MLAs, at one point this fall had said that one of his members could work part-time. He was willing to let one of his members work part-time, Mr. Speaker, which is . . . I can tell you this is not a part-time job in the first place. But as I said, it flies completely in the face of the government's narrative that they need three more, that they need three more politicians, Mr. Speaker. The reality is that we have a Premier who has said that people apparently can work part-time at this, which is absolutely contrary to what the government is asking for.

A second part of this Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act*, what it does is in the count to determine who's included in a constituency boundary, it excludes all those under 18 in the count. So it takes a little snapshot, those people over 18, one little tiny snapshot, and says those are the people who matter and will be used to construct the constituency boundaries.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my 14-year-old daughter Hennessey was here today in the galleries. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, she will be 18 at the time of the next election and will have the opportunity to vote. And I think it sends not a very good

message to Hennessey or any of her counterparts that they shouldn't and don't count in the constituency boundary makeup, Mr. Speaker. Our job, our goal as elected representatives should be to try to engage and encourage young people to participate. And how do you engage someone if you tell them that they don't count?

I think the most troubling thing is that that snapshot of time where those constituency boundaries are made up is just one little, one little snapshot in time, Mr. Speaker. So you could be 17 at the time of the census and turning 18, and that means you don't count. The reality is there are a whole host of people who will not be included in the makeup of the boundaries, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't have the quote in front of me, but I believe at one point in time, the Premier had commented that elections are about voters, Mr. Speaker. Well the reality is, Mr. Speaker, elections are not about voters; they're about citizens. Because there was a time here in this province, less than 100 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that there were citizens in this province who weren't voters, but who apparently didn't count either. We can talk about women who didn't have the opportunity to vote until 1916, so did that mean that they didn't count, Mr. Speaker? Well I would beg to differ. Or in 1960 I believe, was the year that First Nations men and women had the opportunity to vote. So prior to 1960, because they weren't included in the count and they weren't voters, does that mean that the issues that were of the day, that had an impact on them, really didn't have an impact on them? No. The reality is, elections are about citizens; they are not about voters. Elections are about citizens, and making sure people have the supports and the tools and what they need to live the best possible life and contribute and reach our fullest potential, Mr. Speaker.

So leaving those under 18 outside of the, out of the count is completely unacceptable. I know talking to my own daughter about this — and she's interested in politics; obviously she has a mother who is front and centre in politics right now — but there's a whole host of young people who we need, we need a hook to help them understand that politics is about them. I know on the doorstep I've heard some people who say, oh, politics doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. And our goal should be to try to help people understand that politics does matter, that everything that happens in this Legislative Chamber, Mr. Speaker, does have an impact on our lives. But when we tell people that they don't count, and that it doesn't matter, and that they don't matter, we are sending them the message that they shouldn't be engaged or interested in what's going on, Mr. Speaker. So I think that that is hugely, hugely problematic.

I think any group that we . . . Obviously there are many constituencies here in Saskatchewan that have a burgeoning young population, Mr. Speaker, those under 18 right now there. And what will this mean for those constituencies where their growth is that, and there'll be individuals here who it will in fact be 18 in the next year, in the next two years, well before the next election, Mr. Speaker, and they will not have counted in that election? So we think on this side of the House that it's absolutely unacceptable to exclude a group of people, whether it's young people who are under 18, whether it's women prior to 1916, or First Nations people who didn't have the right to vote in Saskatchewan until 1960, Mr. Speaker. The reality is:

elections aren't about voters; they're about citizens, Mr. Speaker.

Again I can tell you, in my two and a half years in this job and knocking on many, many doors, I have not heard one single person ask for more politicians. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm not the only one. I know that, on the opposition, we firmly believe that we don't need three more MLAs right now. We have one of the highest per capita . . . Saskatchewan has an average 17,817 voters per riding compared to 21,198 in neighbouring Manitoba. And then compared to Alberta, they have 43,919 voters per riding. British Columbia has 51,765 and Ontario has 120,110 voters per riding on average, Mr. Speaker. So to say that the workload, the load that we have, Mr. Speaker, as MLAs who represent individuals, is not too high when we look at the case relative across Canada, Mr. Speaker. So I am not sure where this government got the idea that we needed three more MLAs, but clearly it is not something statistically that seems to bear out, nor it is not something that people have been asking for at all, Mr. Speaker. Honestly I haven't had one single individual in two and a half years say to me, Danielle, I think we need more politicians. That is not something that I have heard and I can tell you, neither of my colleagues have heard that either, Mr. Speaker.

So if you're concerned about a government, Mr. Speaker, who is cutting your civil service, in Social Services . . . I happen to be the critic of Social Services, Mr. Speaker, and this year, in this budget, the government is going to be cutting 100 positions, Mr. Speaker. So 100 positions in Social Services, people who provide front-line work, the government is willing to carry out that cut — that's 100 people just in Social Services, Mr. Speaker; 500 across the piece in government this year — but is more than willing and interested in spending millions of dollars over a mandate of an MLA to add more politicians.

As I said earlier, it's interesting when we have gotten up here and said, this will cost millions of dollars, there have been members on the other side who absolutely . . . The heckles fly fast and furious when you say that, Mr. Speaker. But three MLAs to the tune of more than \$700,000 over the course of four years is in fact millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, many millions of dollars when people need government services.

In Saskatoon Riversdale, we have the occasion to . . . We have lots of casework, Mr. Speaker: people who have many strengths but there are also people who have with those strengths some challenges. And Social Services, in our experience, has been understaffed. We have people who can't reach, my constituency assistant who can't reach supervisors, who hears about well there's three caseworkers who are no longer employed, so getting phone calls back for people who need government services has become increasingly difficult, Mr. Speaker. So to cut 100 Social Services positions — that's just in Social Services — and we really feel that in Saskatoon Riversdale, Mr. Speaker. But I know that the 500 cuts across Social Services, people will feel that everywhere.

So hugely problematic, especially when you have a Premier who is unwilling to look at his own office, the Premier's office, Executive Council, and not cut a single position, Mr. Speaker, not a single position. So we have cuts across the civil service except in the Premier's own office and then this government's

desire to add three more politicians to the tune of millions of dollars. I know it's not what people have talked to me about on the doorstep, Mr. Speaker. And I know it's not something that anybody else or any of my colleagues have heard either, so I am not sure where this comes from, Mr. Speaker.

But again as the mom of the 14-year-old who was here today in the galleries, I really struggle with the fact that she will not be included in the count in shaping constituency boundaries. I think well it'll have a negative impact on engagement of young people. And again, just to quote the Premier, he had made the comment at one time that elections are about voters. And I just want to say no. Elections . . . I respectfully disagree with our Premier, and say elections are not about voters; elections are about citizens. Elections are about services to citizens and making sure that the landscape is created for us to have the opportunity to reach our potential and be the best possible citizens, Mr. Speaker.

And again I just want to emphasize, I think the two different, the two different messages we've gotten out of this Premier where one of his new MLAs who was elected in the fall, the Premier at one point had given his blessing for that new MLA to work part-time. And the reality is this is not a part-time job. But this Premier is sending mixed signals: well I have an MLA who can work part-time; oh, but we need three more MLAs. So which one is it, Mr. Speaker, which one is it?

And I think that the taxpayers and citizens in Saskatchewan think that paying for three more MLAs is just not acceptable to the tune of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. Millions of dollars it will cost us as taxpayers and citizens to have to pay for three more politicians when they're not needed, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I know I have other colleagues who are interested in wading in in this debate, Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act*. I again just want to firmly say that we on the opposition side of the House are firmly against the idea of adding three more MLAs or excluding a good chunk of the population from the quotient to determine the constituency boundaries, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Riversdale has moved adjournment of debate. Is the Assembly in agreement with the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 26

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 26 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up today and speak to this Bill. And I know every once in a while we get these come through, *An Act to*

*repeal miscellaneous obsolete Statutes*. And I find this one very interesting. It seems relatively straightforward.

There is five Bills that the government believes is no longer necessary to have, that they're no longer relevant. And so why clutter the books? Let's put them off the record. And I think that we always have to be looking back and seeing what things are there, what Bills are out there, and why are they there. And I know some of these from my own experience in government and some of the changes that were made.

And so I'd like to go through a few of them and make some comments because sometimes when we review our Bills, our statutes, our speeches, you find things of interest. And so the first one is the collective bargaining agreement Act. And as the minister says, you know, that this really related to two collective agreements that were signed between IPSCO and United Steelworkers Local 5890 and Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd. and the Construction and General Workers, Local 180. And so they were done, and things were moving on, and so there's no point in having this in play any more. So that one seems relatively straightforward. And we understand that, from talking to some of the parties involved, that we are ready to . . . that there's no point in having that on the books any further. So that one makes some sense.

[14:45]

The second one, Mr. Speaker, and I find this one very interesting and I do want to take a moment and just reflect on the minister's comments. And it's regarding *The Communications Network Corporation Act*. And it was created in 1990. In fact this is something that was created from the former Conservative government. It seems to be on one hand straightforward, but I think that, particularly since the budget, there is a lot of conversation about what it really means to the film industry. And we saw SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] being sold to Bluepoint Investments on June 30th, 2010, and we understand the sale price was something like \$350,000. And now we understand that another company is looking for and willing to pay some \$3 million, but even that now isn't some record.

But I do want to read this one quote here. And this is what the Minister of Justice said, and I quote. And, Mr. Speaker, the date here is very important. The date was March 5th, 2012, when he said this. Mr. Speaker, I quote. And this is page 273 from *Hansard* in case anybody wants to follow along. And I quote:

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to support the film and television industry through the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit, the Canada-Saskatchewan Sound Stage, and Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, only three, two and a half weeks later, this government delivers a budget that effectively kills the film industry by eliminating the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. How can that happen in one month? You have the Minister of Justice saying that they support the film industry tax. This is a prepared speech by one of the ministers of the Crown. And then you have another minister, the Minister of Culture, who is out there saying, we can't have it. We can't

support it. We can't support it. It's just not sustainable, is the word he would use.

And this is a matter of two and a half weeks. You have one minister saying one thing, a senior minister of cabinet saying that they support the film and television industry through the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. And I'd be curious to know how many backbenchers agree with the Minister of Justice. And yet just barely three weeks later, they kill it. They kill it. It's a good thing he got that speech on record before budget because clearly this government, things change day by day. On one hand you have the Minister of Justice saying, we support the film industry by the tax credit, and then just barely weeks — not even three weeks later — out it goes the door.

Now maybe the Minister of Justice didn't go to any of the budget meetings. Maybe he didn't get the memo from the Minister of Culture, we don't actually support that industry. We're cutting these things. How can that be? How can that be? This is really interesting that barely three weeks later . . . March 5th you have the Minister of Justice saying we support the film industry. We support, and I'll read it again, "the film and television industry through the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit." That's what he said. I'm not making it up. It's right here in his speech. Stood over there and said it. And here you have the Minister of Finance cutting it and the Minister of Culture supporting it for a week in questions, saying it's the thing you've got to do because it's just not working. It's just not working. And he would stand, the Minister of Culture would stand up and say, you know what? We believe in this budget, as precarious as it is.

And today we tried to get in some questions around corrections, where these folks have failed to plan for that because they were so determined in how they would construct that budget. But, Mr. Speaker, that, Mr. Speaker, that we have a government that has lost its way in one month, in a matter of three weeks — would say that it supports the industry through tax credits and then three weeks later they cut it, they cut it. Unbelievable. Unbelievable. I don't know if the Minister of Culture heard. I don't know if that minister heard what the Minister of Justice was saying because here you have one saying one thing and one saying the other one. Clearly they must have known. They must have known what was going down, down the tubes, when it came to the budget time. And I wonder how many people over there on that side of the House feel the same way, feel the same way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have some real questions about this because it really indicates how out of touch this government is and how closely they are tied to their ideology. And they would say one thing one day, and then the next day, a few weeks later, pull the carpet out from underneath people. This is really amazing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know, I know we will have a lot of people who are very interested in this quote from the Minister of Justice who seems to be out of step in this very session in this very month, saying one thing that does not line up, does not line up with the government policy. So I know people will be saying at home, isn't this a little inconsistent? How does a minister get up and say one thing, get up and say one thing, when three weeks later they'll be pulling the rug out from underneath the feet of those people who are working in the film industry?

Clearly they must have known something was happening here. So here we have a minister who seems to be out of step, seems to be out of step with other ministers, and he's promoting this. So I do have some questions about this. And I know when we go to committee there will be a lot of questions about, how could he stand up in the House early in March and say in his ministerial speech that they support, that they support the film industry when, just barely days later, they cut it, they cut it?

And we know for the implication for people that it was the beginning of the end of the road for film industry when they sold SCN, but they had packaged it as saying, well we're going to have some local content, some local content. And now we see that hope disappearing, disappearing very quickly. And so, Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of people have a lot of questions and will have a lot of questions about that for sure.

Mr. Speaker, the next Bill that I wanted . . . or next Bill, or part of that Bill refers to *The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act*. And I know that this was one that again we have some questions about and our critic for Agriculture raised a lot of good questions. And this Minister of Justice . . . And I'm just wondering if this Bill was a little premature because there's a lot of questions we have. And I don't have the answers with me. But again, like today in question period when we had questions about corrections, this government seems to be willing to go full steam ahead when they don't have all the information.

He talked about how this Bill will also repeal *The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act*. It came into effect in 1998 to provide a way for on-farm food safety programs to be recognized in Saskatchewan, but he said it's no longer necessary as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has developed policies and protocols for a national-led OFFS [on-farm food safety] program. And so as this quality assurance program's never been used, they're recommending its repeal. And so now I think that . . . And that's just a brief one, two paragraphs that he talked about it.

But we know in the federal budget there were a lot of concerns about the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and what the implications of the budget was going to be. Were there going to be cuts to the CFIA [Canadian Food Inspection Agency]? There were concerns that as many as 200 jobs were going to be lost. We know that that federal budget lost 19,000 jobs federally. It had a huge impact on the services that Canadians were coming to expect, and particularly with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency who do amazing work, really important work. And we saw that, and we see it many times over.

But we can think of one particularly tragic experience with the listeria at one of the food packing plants in Toronto where it caught all Canadians off guard one summer a few summers ago. And it was particularly hard on seniors and people who are in low-income circumstances because they tend to budget their food money very tightly, and in order to get some protein, they often turn to prepared meats for their nutrition, for their protein. And they were hit hard. And in fact, I understand in fact the class action lawsuit, and I believe it's Maple Leaf Foods, is now being resolved, and people are now being paid out their settlements. And we're all hoping that works out well. It's hard though for those who suffered most from that experience.



And so when we see the kind of job cuts that are happening at the federal level and the implications for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, I'm just wondering if it's a little premature for us to be talking about the on-farm quality assurance program when we really don't know what will take its place. It may be right to cut it, but what's going to take its place? And I don't think that this government has really thought this through because, as the budget has come through, we're still waiting for more details. Is the CFIA going to be able to deliver an adequate program to ensure the quality assurances there on farms when they're doing their work? This is very, very important.

And I know there's other parts of the Bill that talk about the special payment. The dependant spouses Act dealt with a circumstance with workers' compensation. I understand from the minister that's all gone through. Again an unfortunate circumstance. So that's the fifth one.

And the one before that, *The Soil Drifting Control Act*, an interesting piece of legislation that came into force in 1941 that gave farmers the right to petition the RMs [rural municipalities] to make sure that there was adequate protection from soil that was drifting because of poor farming practices. And now it's quite an old piece of legislation. I'm not familiar with it, but it clearly remains an issue in terms of new issues on the farm in terms of climate change and new challenges that farmers have.

But I do think the two pieces that I don't think are quite obsolete yet, the SCN, *The Communications Network Corporations Act*, particularly as I said earlier . . . And I think that again, Mr. Speaker, if people have just tuned in, that I was surprised just minutes ago when I was reading the *Hansard* — and it's March 5th, 2012, page 273 — when the Minister of Justice says in his prepared remarks, and I will read it again because people may have just tuned in, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to support the film and television industry through the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit, the Canada-Saskatchewan Sound Stage, and the Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, only days later we had the Minister of Finance deliver a budget that actually cut the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. And if it wasn't through the good work of the many people who value the Saskatchewan film industry, they were able to secure a three-month extension. But for many it was, as I said earlier, pulling the rug out from below them. And they had a Minister of Culture who did nothing, nothing at all to stand up for those people in that industry.

So to read this, to read this three weeks, two and a half weeks later — a complete one-eighty. Like this is quite something else that the Minister of Justice would say this, and just behind him, the Minister of Culture. I'm not sure if they were on the same page. This is something, quite something else.

[15:00]

So I would say *The Communications Network Corporation Act*, it's not quite yet obsolete. There's lots of questions we have about it. SCN, while it was sold at a fire sale price of \$350,000,

now we apparently understand that there's a price out there that they might be able to sell for 3 million. But that's up in the air now because part of the issue was around the ability to deliver local programming, and there is a big question about that now with the tax credit gone.

So I think this section of the Bill may be a little premature to be talking about because it's an issue that's still very much alive in the minds of many people in Saskatchewan who have a view that Saskatchewan is much more than simply resource-based economy. That's a strong part of it, but we also love and enjoy our arts, and we wish that people can stay in our province to make sure that all people are valued here in Saskatchewan through their contributions.

And clearly we see some inconsistencies here that I think that this government will have to explain. And I think that when they say on one hand, as this minister says on March 5th, that they support the film and the television industry through the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit, and then just barely two and a half weeks later the Minister of Finance cuts it, they must have known, they must have known that something was up. And as I said as well earlier, that we'll have lots of questions about that because how can the minister say that? And when this Bill goes to committee, there will be many, many, many questions about that.

And as well we'll be talking a lot about the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Will they be able to deliver their services to farmers to make sure that the on-farm, that there's quality controls for the on-farm programs?

And so, Mr. Speaker, I know I'm just about wrapping up my remarks on this Bill, but I do find it very interesting. And I think, in the turn of events just in the last week or two, that this Bill, while it was seeming to be pretty straightforward, not much concerns about it, but we do have a couple of concerns. And one will be about how can the Minister of Justice say early in March they support the film industry through the Saskatchewan film and tax credit, and then just a few days later cut it? I think there's some inconsistency that the Minister of Justice will have to explain how he can say that. And of course we'll be looking at the CFIA.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that the debate on Bill No. 26, *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Statutes* be now adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved adjournment 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.

#### Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 24** — *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great interest that I rise today to speak to this Bill, Bill No. 24, the Act respecting the Advocate for Children and Youth. And to begin, Mr. Speaker, I just want to review a few of the comments provided by the minister when he introduced this Bill back on December 14th. And he indicated that the main focus of the Bill, it's a new Act and it's going to replace the previous Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act. So we have a new name for the advocate and it's now the Advocate for Children and Youth. And the Bill makes specific reference to the difference and definition between a child and a youth. I'll get into that in a minute.

And also the fact that this office was originally part of the Office of the Ombudsman, and in 2000 . . . It was created in '94, and the Ombudsman had responsibility for the administration of the office of the advocate at that time. But in 2000, the Ombudsman's oversight of the advocate's office was removed from the legislation. So because of that, there's now no need for the Ombudsman and the advocate to be governed by the same statute. So the minister indicated that the separation of the statutes will give us public clarity about services available and reduce public confusion about the roles and responsibilities of these two very independent officers. So overall I think that's a valuable distinction to be made, and I think this is a moving forward on the evolution of these two particular offices.

The second part of the legislation is the jurisdiction of the Advocate over publicly funded health entities. So in this case, the Bill is now defining the advocate's authority to include regional health authorities and health care organizations and affiliates and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Mr. Speaker. And that's important because children also come into contact with those organizations in the same way that they do with other institutions, and it's important for them to be able to have access to the advocate in the event that their rights are being damaged or harmed in any way. So the minister indicated that the advocate will have a mandate to start working on this interesting and complicated area of children's rights, which is the research relating to the rights of children and youth. So that's an additional point in that legislation.

And finally another major point that he indicated was to allow these agencies to share information voluntarily with the advocate. So ministries and agencies are now able to go forward and share information to help promote simpler and quicker resolution of disputes. Right now he indicated that only 5 per cent of complaints are resolved using the formal investigation process. And that's probably reassuring, Mr. Speaker, that 95 per cent of the complaints are able to be resolved using negotiation or mediation and conciliation. So this will aid the agencies and the ministries as well as the advocate themselves and the children involved in the disputes in order to have a more timely resolution and probably a less formal resolution, in which case I think alternate dispute resolution always, not always but often leads to a better result.

And one of the reasons that mediation and negotiation helps with a better result is that it's non-adversarial. And in

negotiation and in mediation, the goal is always to find a solution that suits both sides, whereas in the adversarial and formal process there is often just a winner and a loser. And in mediation and negotiation and conciliation, there is an exploration into the win-win for all the parties. So these types of improvements in legislation help make a better resolution for the parties that are involved in the dispute. And certainly if it's codified in legislation, it gives ministries and government agencies and the other institutions that are involved in these disputes the ability to find a result that suits everyone as well as, of course, the children themselves.

Another part of the Bill that is very helpful for children and youth and particularly children who are in custody is that they clearly have access to the advocate. And once I get into the specifics of the Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can talk a little bit about some of those terms. But it's helpful for those youth who are in custody to know that there's someone out there for them. So I think that's a good addition to this type of legislation.

I guess the term youth itself, the minister indicated why that's being separated from children, and that's because the youth that are identified from ages 12 to 18 don't consider themselves children. And I don't think we, in society, would consider a 16-year-old a child. We would consider them a youth. So that language change will help youth who are incarcerated feel that they are also included in the Bill. It's not just children. It's children and youth, and that they'll have access to a voice as well and understand that the advocate services are available.

Finally I note that in his comments the minister indicated he had gone through detailed consultations with the Children's Advocate and the Ombudsman and in various ministries that are involved. I don't know here whether he actually consulted with youth or children. That's not clear from his comments, although they're the ones who are the recipients of the actions of this Act. So I would hope that he did actually consult with children and youth as well as the officials that are indicated having been consulted with. I don't know the answer to that question, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the minister has not given us any information there, so that might be something that we could get more information on.

At any rate, the Bill is set up in probably four main parts, three of which are more of interest in terms of the content. As I indicated early in my comments, in this case a child is a person under 18 years of age and would include a person 18 years of age or older who's getting services pursuant to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and a couple other Acts. So those maybe that were incarcerated as a youth, this Bill would also be available to them. So a child is all the way to age 18, and then there's a distinction, the definition of youth, and in that case the youth is someone who's at least 12 years of age or under 18, or those over 18 that I mentioned earlier. So child encompasses the whole range, and youth is part of the range from 12 years of age up. And as the minister indicated, the goal there is to ensure that children who are 12 years or older feel that this advocate is available to them as well because they may not consider themselves a child especially if you are 17 or 18 years old.

So the part two talks about the office of the advocate itself. And all we know now is that the name is changed from Children's Advocate to advocate for children and youth, so that's

consistent throughout the Bill. And there's various clauses that deal with the appointment of the advocate and salary and all the sort of administrative clauses that are typically found in these types of pieces of legislation.

The part III is of interest, I guess, substantively to the Legislative Assembly and to the public, and that is mainly the powers and duties of the advocate. So what can this advocate do, and what can they not do? So there's some directions in clause 14(2). In the first place the advocate shall — so this is a directive clause from this Legislative Assembly telling the advocate that they shall — “become involved in public education and advocacy representing the interests and well-being of children and youth.” So that's the first directive from this Assembly to the advocate.

The second thing that they must do, the advocate must:

receive and investigate any matter that come to his or her attention from any source concerning:

a child or youth who receives services [and this is the extended definition] from any ministry, agency of the government or publicly-funded health entity.

They must also receive and investigate any matter that comes from “any source.” And that's an important phrase, Mr. Deputy Speaker: “any source.” It doesn't matter where it comes from. They have to investigate concerning any complaint concerning “a group of children or youths who receive services . . .” So not just an individual, but a group. And then thirdly: “services to a child, group of children, youth or group of youths by any ministry, agency of the government or publicly-funded health entity.” So there's three areas where the advocate must do the investigation.

And a first step for the advocate, if a matter does come to his attention or her attention, is to try and resolve those matters through the uses of negotiation, conciliation, mediation, or non-adversarial approaches. And as I indicated earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those generally produce better results for all the parties involved. There's been a lot of research done on alternate dispute resolution. And in fact, I've taken a fair bit of training in that area and have seen the effect of effective conciliation or mediation as an alternative to dispute resolution rather than a formal adversarial approach. So certainly when it comes to children and youth, I think this is an appropriate approach.

Then there's a . . . [inaudible] . . . clause, and that's clause 14(3). In this clause, the advocate “may.” So this is one where it's within the discretion of the advocate. And in that clause, there's two points. First of all, the advocate can “conduct or contract for research to improve the rights, interests and well-being of children or youths.” And that was something that the minister indicated in his comments is that this is a new feature, is the ability of the advocate to do research relating to rights of children and youth. So that's always a good piece to have as long as it's properly funded. And again we don't know how the funding's going to roll out for this new duty or power of the advocate.

The advocate can also make recommendations to any minister

responsible for service to children or youths. So this gives the advocate a bit more directive ability to deal with ministers that are involved with the services relating to children or youth. And again I think that's a power that's useful and that I hope the advocate will exercise accordingly, provided the budget is available.

Another section that's of interest in terms of the substantive portion of the Bill is section 16. And this is how children and youth are going to have access to the advocate. And I think that's a very important piece to be successful here, and there's some concerns that I have about this section.

[15:15]

The definition of facility here “. . . means a facility, foster home, group home or other home or place in which a child or youth is placed . . .” So this is where children have been put somewhere that they didn't choose. They've been placed, and there's services being provided to them. So in this case:

If a child or youth . . . asks to communicate with the Advocate, that request shall be forwarded to the Advocate immediately by the person in charge of that facility.

[And if they write] . . . a letter addressed to the Advocate, the person in charge of the facility shall forward the letter immediately, unopened, to the Advocate.

And the facility shall also provide means that permit that “. . . child or youth to communicate in private to the Advocate orally or by any other method.” And they have to inform each child that's placed in those facilities of their rights to communicate in private, of the services provided by the advocate, and how to communicate with the advocate, and contact information for the advocate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my concern here is this is all fine to put it in the legislation, but there's no indication here how this will be monitored. And so I think we'll have to look on this side of the House to find out how indeed these promises being made to these youth are going to be kept. And certainly I'm hopeful that there will be some sort of monitoring by the Ministry of Justice to ensure that these promises are being kept. In particular, you know, I expect that the ministry will go into these facilities and speak with the children that are either in custody or have been placed and find out if they were indeed given that information when they were placed there and whether or not they'd ever been denied access to the advocate.

It's good to see it here in the Bill, but I always worry about implementation. Will there be services? Will there be funding provided to the Ministry of Justice to ensure that these clauses are being effectively fulfilled and that the promises to these children and youth are being kept? And we don't see that here in the Bill. It's difficult to find out. And certainly when cuts to the public service . . . We're seeing cuts to Social Services. A number of people are being cut there, so those folks won't be able to do this work. We don't know how many staff . . . Well there will be cuts throughout the public service, so we don't know exactly how the impact will be on the Ministry of Justice. But I always worry when we make promises like this in

legislation but there's no indication how the implementation of these promises will be carried out.

So it's something we'll watch with interest if and when this Bill is passed and it becomes law to make sure that the promises to the children given in this section are indeed available. Because if they're not, if it's not fulfilled, then this whole Act is meaningless. There's no point to it if the children don't have access and feel that they have access. It's not so much just telling them that, but it's also the actions of the institution facility workers because they have great power over these children, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And these children are very vulnerable and I think would feel hopeless and helpless in many ways. So depending on the way the promise is delivered even could have an impact on how that child feels, whether they truly have access to an advocate or not. And many of these children have never had an advocate in their life, so I think there would even be education included in how they will . . . education provided to those children and youth so that they understand there is somebody out there for them, and not for somebody else, but for them specifically.

So I think again we'll have to watch and see how this Bill unfolds. And it looks good on paper, and so we'll keep an eye on it as it goes along once it's passed and becomes law.

The next part of the Act is the part relating to jurisdiction and procedures. And so there's some interesting clauses in this section as well, in this part. First of all, section 18 indicates that the advocate's decision is final, which is, I guess, interesting in a way although it doesn't carry any weight or any force. All the advocate can do is make the recommendation and that the recommendation is final. But it does tell us that there's no appeal.

So section 18 says basically that the advocate can exercise the powers and carry out their duties:

. . . notwithstanding anything in any other Act that provides:

that any decision, recommendation, act or omission that the Advocate is investigating is final;

that there is no appeal with respect to any decision, recommendation, act or omission that the Advocate is investigating.

So it's a fairly strong power when the buck stops there. That's the end of the line for the person raising the concern. And in some ways no review is . . . Well wherever the buck stops, that's of utmost importance to the person whose rights are been aggrieved. And so this is a very important power that the advocate has been given, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's important that, you know, the advocate takes that very seriously as it's a strong responsibility and a strong power for the advocate.

Something curious in section 19. It indicates there that there's:

Nothing in this Act authorizes the Advocate to investigate:  
any decision, recommendation, act, order or omission of

the Legislative Assembly [which is us], a . . . [council] of the Legislative Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Executive Council or a committee of the Executive Council.

And I think this is a fairly standard clause in these kinds of governmental Bills where there's a process set up for investigation. Usually these kinds of agencies are — Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council — are often excluded from investigation. Just, you know, in the case of children and youth, maybe we could have made an exception in this case because these are the most vulnerable people in our society.

And even when this legislature or Executive Council . . . And I've talked earlier about the powers of Executive Council to make regulations for example. Those kinds of things are great powers. And when you have vulnerable members of our society coming up against decisions made by powerful bodies like this one, the balance, as you can imagine or as you know, is quite distinct. And so we always need to move the legislation towards the protection of the vulnerable body, and in this case it's children and youth. So it's just a question I had when I looked at that particular subclause.

And again, nothing authorizes the advocate to investigate, and this is section 19(1)(d): "any decision, recommendation, act or omission of any lawyer for the Crown in relation to any proceeding." So lawyers are also exempted from investigation. And that may be of concern to some members of the public, but certainly it's interesting that . . . Basically I suspect the lawyers are trying to protect solicitor-client privilege, but it's just interesting that lawyers are exempted from the authority to investigate as well.

The idea of privileged communication is described in section 21, and in that they talk about designated facilities. So this would be facilities, publicly funded health entities of the regional health . . . defined in *The Regional Health Services Act*, *The Mental Health Services Act*, or *The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act*. So this is the part where the minister indicated that it's bringing in the jurisdiction of the advocate over publicly funded health entities. So this is something new for the advocate's role.

And in this section (2) it says:

. . . if a letter is written by or on behalf of a restricted complainant or resident in care and is addressed to the Advocate, the person in charge shall forward the letter, unopened, to the Advocate."

So it's the same as it was in the other facilities. The responsibility of the institution is to forward that letter unopened.

And it goes on in (3) to talk about in every institution where . . . This is about restricted complainants. So when they're in custody or confined, the institution must provide ". . . establish procedures and . . . means that permit each restricted complainant to communicate in private with the Advocate." So similar as we heard in the other section. And they have to also inform that restricted complainant of their rights to

communicate in private, the services that the advocate provides, and how to communicate with the advocate.

And again, Mr. Speaker, my concern is that it looks good in writing, and that's something that I think is a positive step. The question I have that's not answered by this legislation is, how can we be sure those facilities are doing what they're supposed to do?

I know I work . . . In the business that I run, it's a tourism business in northern Saskatchewan, and we often get funding from Service Canada for youth to have a summer job. And one of the things we must do as employers is inform those people when they start working of the health concerns, work-related health concerns or dangers in the workplace. So if there's . . . You know, if they're operating a chainsaw, we have to make sure they're properly trained and that their health and safety is protected. And it's our duty as the employer to inform those youth of the responsibilities.

Same thing here. The facilities are expected to inform the youth and the children of the access to the advocate and how to get a hold of them and what the advocate does. It's not clear to me how that will be monitored. And I guess the comparison I use of my experience is that never once was it sort of followed up whether or not we did actually inform our youth employees of their workplace health and safety issues. We did it but never . . . I don't know that Service Canada ever followed up with anyone to make sure that those provisions are being followed.

Again when you have cuts to public service, these kinds of follow-up processes are often left to the wayside. And I've seen it in my experience of a public servant in terms of cuts, and particularly in the federal level where cuts to . . . The department that I advised was Indian and Northern Affairs, and cuts there really impacted the ability of the public servants left to do the job effectively. They did the best they could, and often programs and services were simply vanished because there was no ability for the staff that were left to carry out those obligations.

So in this case, I don't know if the cuts to the Ministry of Justice or whoever will be the ministry responsible for this, I assume it's the Ministry of Justice, will they be able to do follow-up to ensure that the provisions of this Bill are being followed? Because if they don't, nobody will. And these youth are going to become disillusioned, and the advocate's role is going to be, I think, damaged as a result.

So we don't know, and I guess it will have to be in policy whether or not the Ministry of Justice decides to follow up on whether the children and youth are being given access and the information that the Bill mandates that they will. There's no sort of consequences in here that I can find.

So again, I don't know what would happen if the advocate wasn't doing their job. Presumably the advocate might be replaced, I would hope, but there's nothing stipulated in the Bill. And that's of concern.

Clause 22 talks about the refusal to investigate. So in this case, the advocate has a number of things where they can refuse to investigate. Most of them seem quite appropriate to me, Mr.

Deputy Speaker, but it's the first one that raises an eyebrow for me and that's section 22(1)(a). So it says:

The Advocate may refuse to investigate or cease to investigate a matter if:

- (a) it relates to a decision, recommendation, act or omission of which the person referring the matter had knowledge for more than a year before the complaint is received by the Advocate.

Now in that case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm quite concerned. Because if it's a child who had the complaint, or is the person referring the matter, and they were four years old at the time that complaint arose, but it took them several years to actually realize it and bring it forward as a real complaint, the advocate could refuse to investigate. That's of a lot of concern actually. Children don't always understand what's going on and it's very difficult for them when their rights are being infringed to maybe even know it, and secondly often feel shame or embarrassment or fear to speak about it to anyone — particularly if they're in custody in a foster home or in some other place where they've been placed. So I just worry that this one-year limit is going to prohibit access to the advocate for some valid and legitimate complaints or matters that need investigation. So I wish the ministry would take a closer look at that and perhaps think about a way to ensure that young children, who aren't able to bring their investigation or refer their matter for more than a year, are also allowed to have access to an investigation.

The other areas that are listed for refusal to investigate in this section are realistic and very practical. If the advocate believes it's frivolous or vexatious or trivial, or if the advocate is of the opinion that the balance between public interests and the interests of the person are such that it shouldn't be investigated, or if it doesn't warrant investigation, or if the person referring the matter doesn't have sufficient personal interest in the subject matter of the complaint, so these are the kinds of things where they could refuse to investigate or cease an investigation. And those seem to make a lot of sense. So that seems to be an appropriate section, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next thing about the process is found in section 24, and that's the notice to conduct the investigation, so there's a number of procedural directions there in that clause. And then clause 25 talks about the conduct of the investigation itself. So in this case every investigation has to be conducted in private, and I think that's imperative for the rights of these children to ensure that they're safe and that there's no repercussions. So that's very, very important, that it be conducted in private.

[15:30]

The advocate can also go ahead and order hearings and can obtain information from any person they consider appropriate. So there's some freedom there for the advocate to do the inquiry that the advocate feels is necessary. And I guess the other thing is under section 25(3), the advocate is not required to hold a hearing, and nobody has a right to be heard by the advocate as well. You can't demand that the advocate listens to you.

There's section 26, describes the power of the advocate to

require information and examine persons. So in that case, any person who's able to give information can be called to provide information, and there's ability for the advocate to exercise those powers even if the person mentioned is an officer employee of a ministry or an agency of the government or publicly funded health entity or a board member, or if a document is under the custody of those aforementioned organizations and institutions. The advocate can examine people under oath. And it doesn't matter — it could be a public officer or any person who refers a matter or any other person who the advocate thinks is able to give information related to the investigation. So there's a broad range of power here for the advocate to conduct the investigation.

Again, deliberations of Executive Council are not required, in this case, to be produced. And I'm just reminded of the comments of my colleague before me about the . . . I would like to have been in cabinet when we were discussing the film tax credit, because we heard that the Minister of Justice, on March 5th, announced to us that the film tax credit was a good thing and that it was part of what this government supported. And yet less than three weeks later we heard that it's not, and that the Minister of Culture decided that it isn't important. So we have this interesting flip-flop, and if the advocate could call an investigation into this, we might find out exactly what did happen in Executive Council when that sudden one-eighty occurred in the last few weeks. Certainly I think the public would be interested in hearing that as well, but unfortunately we don't have a Bill that causes us to produce those kinds of deliberations either. But quite interesting to think about the discussion that must have gone on at Executive Council when the decision was made, and again whether, you know, the advice of backbenchers was sought when that decision to eliminate the tax credit was made. It's not clear to us that there's unanimous support for this decision by the Minister of Culture, but that's not something I think we'll ever hear. At any rate, in this case the advocate doesn't need to require information given if it would involve disclosure of deliberations of Executive Council. Those deliberations are protected throughout federal-provincial legislation. So there's no surprise there.

The report then is the next section — that's section 28 — and at this point the advocate has completed the investigation and now they're prepared to make a report. There's a number of circumstances that are outlined in the first part of the section 28(1) that tells how the report should be made. And in this case, if the advocate believes that the decision was contrary to law, was unreasonable, unjust, oppressive, improperly discriminatory or in accordance with a rule of law, based on a mistake of law or simply wrong, then that will be the report that they give. And then in that case the advocate, under subsection (2), has to report the opinion and the reasons for it to the appropriate minister and to the relevant ministry and make any recommendations that the advocate considers appropriate.

So here's the end of the advocate's power, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He or she has done the investigating. They've received the complaint, done the investigation, called in all the information that they feel is appropriate. They've now decided there was something either contrary to law or wrong or for the other reasons, and that a right has been exercised improperly or on irrelevant grounds. Then they give the report to the appropriate

ministry or agency of the government or publicly funded health entity to make recommendations, and that's the end of the advocate's story.

There's no power in here for the advocate to force that agency or ministry to act according to the recommendations. It's just simply the recommendations are given, much like the auditor or probably any other independent investigators. So that's the way these types of decisions and hearings end up, is it's just in recommendations to the offending agency.

Finally there's a few extra clauses I'll speak to. One is section 29 and that's where the advocate makes a recommendation. They can request the ministry to give notice of steps that are taken. So that's one final power of the advocate. It's not really a power; it's just a request. But they certainly can request the offending agency to give them notice of the steps that they have taken to give effect to the recommendations. And if no action has been taken — this is clause 29(1)(a) — the advocate can consider the comments that have been given and submit a report of the matter, including their report to continue the recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and they can mention the report in the next annual report to the Legislative Assembly. So if that ministry or entity or publicly funded health entity has not taken the recommendations or acted according to the recommendations, then the advocate has the power or the ability to refer that to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and once that's done then they can report it in their next annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

So based on those comments — and I've only touched on a few of the clauses that are in this new Bill — it appears that there's some improvements for the child and youth advocate, that indeed the adding youth itself is a positive, definitional change so that children who are 16 and in custody realize that the advocate is there for them as well as children, that a 16-year-old might not consider him or herself a child. Secondly, that the provisions for communication and providing information to those children and ensuring that they're aware of their rights and that the advocate is there for them. The onus is strong on the facility where they've been placed, and I guess my main concern with that is whether or not the Ministry of Justice is in a position to ensure and do monitoring of the implementation of these clauses. Are those entities doing what they're supposed to do? And if they're not, then we're failing the children.

So I worry, with all the cuts to the public service, whether there will be able public servants available with funding and support from the ministry to ensure that they can do the follow-up and make sure these Bills are being implemented. Because again, these are the very most vulnerable people in our society. These are children often who have been sidelined and ostracized from the mainstream through circumstances no fault of their own, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they are the most marginalized, often the most impoverished, and least able to advocate for themselves.

And that's why the advocate was established in the first place. But if the entities that are holding them aren't following the provisions in this Bill, I fear for those children and the further damage that is done to them when we're, you know, there's an advocate there for them and they're not able to access them, or not given the information about how to do that, and that that be

respected and followed by the people who have custody of these children.

So given that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's been my pleasure to comment on this Bill No. 24, *An Act respecting the Advocate for Children and Youth*. And I know that other of my colleagues are going to want to comment on it as well, so at this point I would move to adjourn the debate. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 25

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 25 — *The Ombudsman Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to weigh in to discussion and debate here this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 25, *The Ombudsman Act, 2011*. This Bill brings forward various refinements and changes to how the Ombudsman operates. It sets forward distinct legislation and makes various changes.

What I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, is the correspondence that we've received with the Office of the Ombudsman, the Provincial Ombudsman, to shed some light on the changes that have been made. This is the approach we tend to move forward with when we are analyzing legislative changes, making sure that we understand in fact what the consultation process looked like for this government in deriving their legislation, what drove that legislation, what the intended consequences are, and making sure that we're understanding any unintended consequences that may have been an oversight through the consultation process of government.

Certainly when we're speaking about the Ombudsman in Saskatchewan, this is an office and a role that's incredibly important to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the strength of that office and the strength of that role is a very important service to Saskatchewan people. It's important that we look to what this means. It's a matter of providing and making sure that this office is able to provide fairness back to Saskatchewan people and also has the resources needed to resolve disputes and to investigate problems, wrongdoing, challenges as they exist in Saskatchewan.

The scope of the Provincial Ombudsman has been broadened through this legislation. As I say, there's been some refinements in language. There's also been some distinction brought with the piece of legislation that was mentioned by my colleague from Nutana who was speaking just about Bill No. 24. And this separates, in fact, by legislation the Children's Advocate and

the Provincial Ombudsman, both incredibly important roles.

So as it relates to any Act and any resources and any plans of the Provincial Ombudsman, we recognize the importance of that role. We thank the Ombudsman and their staff for providing Saskatchewan people this mechanism to fairness and of review and of investigation that they provide. And certainly that's the lens for which we look at legislative changes, making sure that this strengthens the office, supports the office, supports the work of that office, and in doing so, supporting Saskatchewan people as they seek resolution or concerns as it relates to potential wrongdoing or wrongdoing of ministries — government ministries and agencies, Mr. Speaker.

The legislation was initially or this office was initially enacted, as I understand, in 1973 and of course works in a process to evaluate complaints, to investigate complaints, and work toward resolution of complaints. These are all fundamentally important roles to provide access to citizens of the province, something we fully support to this day.

We recognize that there is an important function for both the Ombudsman and the Children's Advocate in Saskatchewan. And this brings forward and establishes distinct and separate legislation for those two entities, those two bodies, those independent officers of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. That's something that we support. Not only do we support it. Through consultation, we understand that this is something that those independent officers themselves have been advocating for, and that they fully support the changes as it relates to separating those Acts and providing separate and distinct legislation for the roles and the entities as they are independent offices, Mr. Speaker.

I know the minister suggests that there's six different changes that are brought forward in this legislation. We will be analyzing some of those here today. We are analyzing those with stakeholders all across Saskatchewan, those directly impacted by legislative changes, and we'll be doing so in the committee process as well, Mr. Speaker, all with an eye to making sure that we are supporting the important work of the Ombudsman, and all with an eye to making sure that Saskatchewan people are provided this very important avenue, this important mechanism to resolving concern or challenge of wrongdoing by government ministry, staff, or agencies, Mr. Speaker.

We recognize that in part of this legislation there is some modernization of language, some refinement in language within this legislation, and some updating of language to be more respectful to the current environment that we live in. That's important, and something we see as sort of housekeeping, but it's important to see those sorts of changes made to legislation, something certainly that we support.

There's a significant change to this legislation as it relates to the scope of the Provincial Ombudsman, and specifically that relates to health care in Saskatchewan and support for patients that are dealing with health care in the province. And this Bill clearly defines publicly funded health entities and what that includes, and it includes the regional health authorities, the health care organizations, affiliates, and as well the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Mr. Speaker. And it's important

that this be clearly defined through legislation that these publicly funded health care organizations and entities are in fact an agency of government and certainly within the scope of the Ombudsman.

[15:45]

If we think about the health budget in general, Mr. Speaker, and what it occupies — the lion's share of resources of the provincial budget — and as well the significant importance of high-quality health supports to Saskatchewan people and the large number of Saskatchewan residents and families that are interfacing with the health system or publicly funded aspect of that system, we need to make sure that the mechanisms exist for patients and for families to pursue fairness when there's either been perceived wrongdoing or wrongdoing. This is fundamentally important, and certainly entrenching this within legislation for the Provincial Ombudsman is important and something that we support.

It's an important access and avenues, as I say, in a healthy, well-functioning democracy to make sure that any member of its citizenry have access to a mechanism such as the Provincial Ombudsman in seeking justice or seeking clarity or having resources to investigate and review decisions and treatment of a government agency or board or staff. And certainly when we look at health care in Saskatchewan, it's important that health care be a part of that. So certainly as it relates to including health care and publicly funded health entities into the scope of the Provincial Ombudsman and enshrining that in legislation and providing that protection back to Saskatchewan people, is something that's fundamentally important, and something that we support.

Questions exist about making sure there's adequate resources for both that office, for the work, the good work that's going to be done on behalf of Saskatchewan people on this front. And that's important because it's important that we not only extend, by way of this mechanism, the support to Saskatchewan people in reviewing a circumstance or in having a fair hearing, but it's important that we make sure that that is then a reality as well. So to make sure that the adequate and appropriate resources for the proper investigation, for the proper review to be done in a timely fashion, it's fundamentally important for the proper functioning of this office but also to be properly serving Saskatchewan people. And it's something that we have many questions on yet as we move forward, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that the resources are there to do the work that we anticipate for Saskatchewan people.

We see as well some changes in this legislation that bring forward the ability for the office and the Provincial Ombudsman to provide and conduct investigations where requested by non-governmental agencies. And I guess the question here, or the specific part that's important here, is the where requested part. So when requested or where requested, the office and the Ombudsman has the ability now to engage in these investigations, these reviews, possibly seeking resolution of those circumstances and doing that for non-governmental bodies. And that's certainly a change. And this Act enables that office and its specific expertise and knowledge and skills and human resources that it's established, the procedures and process that it's established, which are a fine example of

servicing Saskatchewan people, can now apply this mechanism and this support to other . . . that lend that expertise and supports to other agencies.

And there's a process through this legislation that sets up a fee for service for that activity. We have questions about that process, making sure that that fee process is both fair to the Ombudsman's office, to make sure that it brings forward the kinds of resources needed to deal with what we might anticipate, as some of the agencies or organizations that may look to the Ombudsman's office, to provide that function and that role, but also to make sure that it's a fair and well understood process back to those organizations, that what's being put forward does indeed make sense. But certainly expanding some of the scope, potential scope of the Ombudsman when requested for non-governmental organizations seems to merit sense and utilization of that technical expertise and those well-defined processes that certainly have served Saskatchewan people on so many fronts in an admirable way. Certainly I can see why offering that to non-governmental agencies, Mr. Speaker, is important.

When we think of the kinds of organizations and groups that may be now looking to the Provincial Ombudsman to provide some supports, some investigation, the kinds of organizations we're speaking of may be municipalities, urban and rural, Mr. Speaker, may be school boards, may be community-based organizations, Mr. Speaker, rural governments as I highlighted. The list would really go on.

But this is an important function, and in many ways having the mechanism of the Provincial Ombudsman and having that fair review and that independent review and that investigation speaks to providing fairness to Saskatchewan people. But it also provides integrity back to the organization delivering service, whether that be government, whether that be an agency of government, or whether that be non-governmental agencies. And when the public is interfacing with organizations of government or some arm of government, it's incredibly important that they have an avenue that's trusted, that's independent to make sure that concerns or wrongdoing are both heard and dealt with, Mr. Speaker. And that's where this role has been so important. And certainly this is where we can see where many organizations, Mr. Speaker, will likely look to the trusted Provincial Ombudsman's office that certainly has integrity in this process to support them when they go to conduct such a review when allegations are brought forward or where resolution is required, where investigations are required, Mr. Speaker.

This Bill moves further to provide privileged, confidential communications between individuals that are incarcerated in our facilities across Saskatchewan with the Provincial Ombudsman. And certainly that's of value and of importance. I think what we look to here, Mr. Speaker, is making sure that the adequate resources are being put into those facilities and into the hands of those individuals, and as well the plans are in place to make sure that that's extended in the direct fashion that this Act intends. And certainly we see a government that's reducing and cutting resources and cutting staff in so many different areas of government but yet endeavouring to do some additional work in an area such as this.



We need to make sure that we see the plan, that we see the resources and that it's well understood. And so part of this will require that plan to be shared — back through this committee process, back to the legislature — those procedures to be established to inform certainly those individuals that are in those facilities, how is that going to occur as far as the communication to inform those individuals of this right? But also how are they going to inform them of how to access this? And then what are the plans to ensure that that access exists and exists in a structural way — that isn't set up once but then neglected through time — but set up, entrenched in procedures within those facilities and that access provided to the individuals for whom it's intended?

We are looking as well that this makes some changes around the ability to obtain information from government agencies, brings forward legislative authority or, as I understand, some enshrining of that right and the importance of it. And certainly that information is fundamental to a fair review both for the individual, the complainant who's brought forward the concern of wrongdoing, but also for the organization or for the ministry or for the agency that is in question.

So that's incredibly important and something that we will be continuing to examine — making sure that the changes that are within this Bill are in fact all that's required to make sure that the Ombudsman office has the access to the information that it requires within the scope of organization and boards and agencies that it's responsible for and that it reviews, but also making sure, Mr. Speaker, that there's a process and a procedure, if you will, set up within government, within ministries, within organizations of government, within entities of government, within agencies of government to be able to share that information in an expeditious fashion, in a fashion that allows circumstances to be dealt with in an expedient way and making sure that there's nothing there to impede the important review of the investigation from the perspective of the Provincial Ombudsman's office.

And this gets to again the question of concerns around some of the failure to plan that we see in different aspects of this government but also some of the potential consequences of many of the cuts that we see to the front-line civil service all across Saskatchewan. And what we need to instill is a confidence to Saskatchewan people that this isn't just lip service that's being provided by way of changes to an Act but in fact there's going to be effective change in government in how it can communicate and how it will communicate with the Ombudsman.

So we're glad to see this enshrined in legislation — that access to that information — in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, in the best interests of fairness, Mr. Speaker. But we also need to make sure. And we're going to be looking and seeking clarification as to the plans and procedures of government and of those agencies to ensure that they're consistent with this Act.

What we don't want to have is changes on one front where we're providing authorities to the Ombudsman's office, as we should be, but then not moving forward with how government's operating, how agencies are operating, how entities are operating that will need to provide that important information

back to the Provincial Ombudsman to undertake the very important work.

What we do recognize is that many of the changes that were put forward are supported by the Provincial Ombudsman, that independent office. That's important for us to know that. It provides us a level of confidence in some of the changes that are brought forward.

I know one of the changes that wasn't requested was the exclusion, Mr. Speaker, of access to the reports and the information around health quality reports. So while we've expanded the scope or the government's expanded the scope of the Provincial Ombudsman office to review health care matters, there's an exclusion of those Health Quality Council and health quality committee reports and information. And we have many questions on that front about why this exclusion, why this exclusion exists when it wasn't something that was requested by the Ombudsman. And certainly that access to information is so fundamentally important to the thorough and independent review that goes on when a matter is before the Ombudsman.

You know, I guess the one thing that we can keep in mind, although it's not as strong as what it would be if it was included through legislation, but is that while the Ombudsman's office isn't entitled to that information, there is nothing that precludes the entities in health quality committees from sharing that information when needed, when requested by the Provincial Ombudsman. And certainly I think there is significant merit in having access to that information to the independent Ombudsman, to this independent office, but also it would be important to have a co-operative relationship in light of the fact that it's not enshrined through legislation.

But those are the kinds of questions that certainly we'll be raising, Mr. Speaker, as we move into committee with the minister, as to why, when many of the changes were supported by the Ombudsman in providing the kind of support that's needed to strengthen that office and the very important role it fulfills to Saskatchewan people, why would this change occur, or why would this be enshrined in legislation in a manner that excludes access from the Ombudsman to those important health care reports.

[16:00]

Quite frankly if the Ombudsman and that important office is tasked with the role of reviewing health care matters, it would only seem to make sense, Mr. Speaker, that they'd have access to that information to support a full review in making sure that justice and fairness exists for Saskatchewan people.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to certainly thank the Provincial Ombudsman and the staff of the Ombudsman's office for the work that they provide, the role they fulfill to Saskatchewan people in ensuring an avenue and an important mechanism that allows Saskatchewan people to seek resolution to a potential wrongdoing or of wrongdoing, to be able to bring injustice to light and to see that it's resolved, and to make sure that that fair treatment is there for Saskatchewan people.

The reality is that government or some agency of government

certainly interfaces or touches the lives of Saskatchewan people and families in significant ways, Mr. Speaker, whether through health care or whether through the significant lists of entities and roles and functions of government. And it's imperative that an independent process exists to make sure that Saskatchewan people have full support in raising concerns as it relates to their treatment or decisions of government or boards or entities related to government.

So we certainly want to thank those in the office, thank them for the important work they do, let them know that we're going to continue to ask questions on this front to make sure that the legislation before us is in their best interests, that there's not possibly some refinements or amendments that could be made to serve Saskatchewan people better. We'll continue on in that consultative process and seeking questions and clarity on many fronts.

But at this point in time as it relates to Bill No. 25, *The Ombudsman Act, 2011*, I would now move to adjourn debate, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved adjournment of debate on 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.

### Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 27 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to rise today in the debate on Bill No. 27. It's always interesting as a legislator to rise and participate in Bills relating directly to education matters. I do this fully conscious of the fact that I'm rising in this House opposite certain individuals who had something to do with my education, Mr. Speaker. So it's always sort of a bit of a double jeopardy there in terms of how it worked out, and will I be graded fairly on the speech after the fact? So we'll see how it works out, Mr. Speaker.

But Bill No. 27 and its consequential cousin, Bill No. 28, of course they're sort of a package deal. But Bill No. 27, the primary objective contained, the primary objective at the start of the Bill, Mr. Speaker, is the measure of starting the school year 2012-2013 after the Labour Day long weekend. Now who can argue with that, Mr. Speaker? Who would have trouble with a longer summer? We in Saskatchewan of course look forward to the summer months and, you know, prolonging summer. Who could argue with that?

Well we don't have so much problem with the substance of that. We think that's a fair enough proposition. We do have some concerns with how this came about. Certainly when the

measure was brought forward in the campaign, it was provided under the auspices of a survey conducted by Saskatchewan Tourism and responded primarily to an economic imperative as opposed to an education imperative. And again, that's not the end of the world even of itself, Mr. Speaker, but we do think that when you're proposing something that fairly substantially changes the way that a sector in this province does their business, it's usually a good policy to consult them on it.

And I certainly look later on in the legislation, some of the additional changes that regard other aspects in the legislation and the fairly extensive work that was undertaken with the LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents] and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and SASBO [Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials] and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, you know, that is as it should be.

But certainly the marquee provision in this legislation concerns changing the first day to be following the Labour Day weekend. And on that, there was a fairly unanimous, there was a fairly unanimous opinion registered on the part of the education sector that teachers and school boards and administrators and people that are out there on the front lines of the education system on a day-to-day basis hadn't been consulted of this change.

And again, the substance of the change itself, Mr. Speaker, not so much the problem. But as you find out very quickly in politics, it's not so much what you're doing but how you are doing it can be a problem as well. So policy is one thing, process is another. And on this, the process was, I think, found to be wanting. That is further compounded by the fact that there are a number of things that have been punted to regulation in this legislation.

And so again, Mr. Speaker, there are some things that we know in terms of the specific provisions of the legislation that are public here on the floor of this Assembly, and there are other things that have been punted to further consultation with the sector. Again, we're glad to see consultation with the sector and the people that are tasked with the daily work that takes place in the education sector, that very important work. But again, Mr. Speaker, as regards something as fundamental as this, it would have been good to see better consultation on the part of the government with the sector.

So it came back to the sector after having said, and the Labour Day provision was announced, that it was replying to the Tourism Saskatchewan survey. And there's the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] radio story from the time where it cites it as being a primarily economic measure and helping families to better plan their summers and their summer vacation. Again, all perfectly worthwhile pursuits, Mr. Speaker, but again, if you're going to be working with the sector and your word is going to be worth its salt, then you should be out there having consulted with something like this.

It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, you know — and again there's some questions that will be worked out as this carries forward — but what happens with the days of instruction, what happens with that envelope that is being set out in the legislation with the amendments to section 163 wherein the earliest instructional day being the first day following Labour

Day and the latest instructional day being June 30th, what happens with the days of instruction in that envelope, we'll be very interested to see. It's also interesting, and again we had welcome guests from the Fransaskois community here today, but the assurance made by the minister in her December 14th speech stating:

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that boards of education and the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises will continue to set specific timelines for the opening and closing dates of schools. They will also set the school hours of operation and the general schedule of operation for the school year. Boards will also retain the autonomy to allow teachers to begin working earlier to prepare . . . [their school work].

Again we'll see how that shakes out in practice, Mr. Speaker. But again the attention that is paid after the fact to the autonomy of those organizations is interesting to see. But the proof, as always, Mr. Speaker, is in the pudding, and we'll see how this shakes out.

Other regulations that will be attendant to these changes in legislation, again there is some ongoing work that was done with the sector vis-à-vis meetings with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation; the Saskatchewan School Boards Association; the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents; or the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials. There's some ongoing work that kicks up a number of provisions that might be better, somewhat concerned as being of a housekeeping nature.

So as regards questions of, oh, the education councils that had been part of the legislation previously, some work around the teacher classification and certification boards, the work again with the sectors around what is square by the *Copyright Act* of Canada, the work that is ongoing around the sources of financing, which again has been part of a longer piece of work and I'll have more to say about that under the discussion around Bill No. 28. And again how the sector relates to things like *The Tabling of Documents Act*. And again the appointment of auditors and the ability to choose for each of the school boards in that regard. And again some of the — this being of greater consequence, Mr. Speaker — the way that school boards are able to finance their activities.

So again we've moved from a situation where we see the government already asserting a fairly significant amount of power in what has traditionally been a balanced relationship between the province and local school boards, something which has had its frustrations over the years, goodness knows, but something which is the tough work that needs to be done if you're going to square off the concerns around the autonomy of the local boards and the ability of local boards to respond to local circumstance and set priorities but at the same time balancing off the educational offerings within a provincial system.

And I guess we've seen over the years of this government certainly, you know, there were more funds available, so more funds being extended to the sector, and that's something that is right and proper. But something that we've seen is a change in

the power relationship. And moving from what had been one somewhat balanced between the local school boards and the province, and running everything out of the Education ministry, versus the authority of the local school boards. Previously of course the local school boards had recourse to the tax base. And also, you know, again by which if you don't control the financial levers, arguably you do not have autonomy. Or if you don't have some recourse around access to the property tax base in pursuit of local initiatives and local priorities, can you genuinely call yourself an autonomous board?

And I think there's an argument to be made that we have seen that balance shift from one where there was more balance between the two sort of entities in the power equation to a situation where there's much more power now concentrated in the hands of the provincial government. And again there's, I think, a price to be paid for that in terms of local autonomy and response to local initiatives. Hopefully we'll get to a place where that brings about greater transparency in terms of who pays what.

And you know, I think there's an analogy that can be made to the health regions, Mr. Speaker, where for many years we saw members opposite talk about decisions that had been made by SAHO, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations, or by individual health districts as some kind of a buffering thing. Or that if you brought out SAHO spokespeople, that it was a question of, I think the member from Indian Head-Milestone liked to talk about, bringing out the oven mitts.

Well I guess, Mr. Speaker, we'll see how the Saskatchewan Schools Boards Association, how LEADS, how the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], how SASBO, we'll see how they fit into the circumstance now, Mr. Speaker. Again time-honoured representatives of the sector that have a fairly complex and sophisticated understanding of the sector and the needs of the sector, and we'll see how they respond to this change in the power balance. Because of course the funding formula has been a long time coming, and again there's still transitional monies put up in this budget this year, Mr. Speaker, and how something like Bill No. 27 is fully realized. We'll see how that goes once it's up and operational in and of itself.

[16:15]

But there are questions that are very worthwhile asking, Mr. Speaker, and questions with which, you know, as relates to the requirements for borrowing on the part of local school boards. Certainly we'd heard from the Regina Public School Board concerns around the inability of the Regina Public School Board to access the less-expensive interest rates that the provincial government is able to afford itself. Again if the provincial government has increasing control, does it make sense to be foisting greater interest costs on the individual school boards as they set out to borrow for things like capital? We think there's an argument to be made that that does not make sense, Mr. Speaker.

But as far as the work that's been ongoing on the part of the members opposite, we saw a new funding system being promised for years. It is finally here, but even then, Mr. Speaker, there's a transitional aspect to it that is still working through the system. School boards have still, you know . . .

They're out conducting their analysis, which is on the one hand a bit surprising, given how long this work has been undergoing, but on the other, as concerns records of certain members opposite when it comes to the conduct of affairs in the educational sector, not terribly surprising, Mr. Speaker.

So again the change to starting after Labour Day, again we'll see how that works out in the details. But on the face of it, the idea of a longer summer in Saskatchewan, obviously we understand the attraction of that, Mr. Speaker. But the way that it was done and the way it was brought forward raises some definite concerns as to how this government approaches the sector.

Other changes in the legislation that relate to different aspects of how the sector is financed and how it relates to the new funding formula, also cause for concern, Mr. Speaker. But again in terms of how these things roll out, we shall see how it plays over time. The number of things that have been kicked off to regulations as well, the proof will be in the pudding. But already we know the school boards in the sector are doing their analysis. And how that relates to Bill No. 27, we shall see. But again if past is prologue, we will have some cause for concern.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've got some other related topics that I'll reprise under the consideration of Bill No. 28. But at this time, as regards Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011*, I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The Opposition House Leader has moved adjournment of debate on 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.

### Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 28 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Well hello again, Mr. Speaker. It's good to rise in the debate on Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*. Again this is tied in with the amendment to Bill . . . or that were contained under Bill No. 27 and sort of following the train of it or move parallel to it.

Certainly one of the things that this piece of legislation is seized with is the way that the educational sector relates to safeguards that have been in place previously in the former educational financing system. Again, Mr. Speaker, we're very interested to see how this plays out in terms of an evolution we see under way or development we see under way, where in that balance that had previously existed between individual school boards and the provincial government, and we see where that is tilted definitely to more control on the part of the provincial government. And of course fundamental to that, Mr. Speaker, is

the control that is exerted over the financial levers and access to the property tax base.

And again there are some good things on the one hand, Mr. Speaker, but on the other, we've got a set of changes that, despite some transitional funds being available to implement the system or transition into the system, we see those having come along quite a bit later than they were promised to the sector and to Saskatchewan people. How this relates to the financing that is available to individual school boards, and whether or not there are aspects of this that really make sense in terms of sending individual school boards out to do ever greater borrowing in the private money markets, and in terms of denying them access to the preferential rate, interest rate that the province has, and again there's a fine line, there's a balance to be struck in that kind of financing, Mr. Speaker.

But we'd like to see the argument being made instead of something being put forward that we think would appear to be more footed or based in off-loading to the sector that will amount to putting various of the school boards into a box. And then the idea of autonomy being converted into, well they can now decide what to cut as opposed to what to finance from their own source revenue.

Very clearly the control in the sector now rests with the province. And we'll see how the sector, we'll see where it's at over 10 years, Mr. Speaker, in terms of whether or not people look to the local school boards when it comes to matters of educational policy as they have traditionally, Mr. Speaker, or whether or not they'll clue into the fact that it's now the province that in so many ways calls the shots for the sector.

And again, Mr. Speaker, that balance had already been there, had been there over years in the system. But we see this as a shift in that balance to one that very much has the province calling a lot of the shots. And again the kind of financial oversight that is offered or being amended under this Bill No. 28, we shall see how this plays out.

But again, I guess in some ways it simplifies the process, Mr. Speaker, because we won't have individual school boards to look to when it comes to the setting of educational policy or, you know, really developing local agendas or renewal agendas or pick your locally determined set of objectives. That will now be much more in the hands of the Education minister, and I'm not sure that's necessarily a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, I think something that we valued over decades in the province of Saskatchewan is that balance struck between the provincial system and local autonomy. Again, I know that that can make for some frustrating negotiations and that it's never, those kind of back and forths are never as easy as they might look on paper. But we'll see for real how this plays out, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess it's worth noting, it's always good to know who calls the shot or makes the decision, Mr. Speaker. But in so many ways, what these pieces of legislation represent is the assertion of provincial, much more provincial control over the education sector. And again we'll see how this plays out, how this authority is shouldered on the part of those who will seize it. But if anything, Mr. Speaker, it makes it easier to know

where to address compliments or concerns as regards the sector.

And again, the bottom line in all this is that education is one of the great levellers in our society, Mr. Speaker. It's one of those great ways up the socio-economic ladder. If you don't have an education system that is serving kids well, is serving families well, then you don't have much as a society. And if these changes in fact move to improve that situation and provide for a better education of children in Saskatchewan and provide for a greater educational attainment for a more equitable system, then you know, we'll see.

I'll be very interested to see how these changes play out over that longer haul, not just the year of the transition, Mr. Speaker, but whether or not these changes stand the test of a decade or so, and whether or not the kids that are in kindergarten right now or in pre-kindergarten right now, how will they be served come a decade on. Will they be better equipped to take on the modern economy? Will our system provide for both excellence and equity, Mr. Speaker, in a greater way, in a better measure? Or will we be continuing to . . . Will we see a system where all the shots are called from the Education ministry and local autonomy is just a historical artifact? We'll see how this works out, Mr. Speaker.

So I guess that is what I wanted to contribute to this debate around Bills No. 27 and 28. Again very important pieces of legislation and not just about the sort of marquee measures around, you know, making summer longer or the kind of flashy things like that. But again how we structure our system and how we bring the dollars to bear to educate kids in this province is of huge importance. And there are some very fundamental changes being proposed here that one of the challenging things about them is that we shall see. It won't be tomorrow that we'll see how they work out, Mr. Speaker, but we will see over this educational season and subsequent years to come how these work or do not work and how they serve kids learning or not, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendment Act, 2011*.

**The Speaker:** — The Opposition House Leader has moved adjournment of debate on 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.

### Bill No. 29

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 29 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great

pleasure to once again rise to speak to this Bill No. 29, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011*.

The Bill basically is describing some new rules that are being proposed to handle maintenance enforcement orders both within the province and extra-provincially. So the Bill is set up to allow the maintenance enforcement office, which was established in 1986, to work with other maintenance enforcement offices across Canada in order to be more efficient and move along the collection of these maintenance enforcement orders.

In particular the minister noted in his comments back on March 5th when he introduced the Bill that 91 per cent of payments that were due were collected, which is a remarkable accomplishment by that office, and I highly commend those civil servants for the work that they do. As I will often comment here, I'm concerned about cuts to the civil service because these are important jobs that these people are carrying out. And every time a vacancy is not filled or a job is cut, it means a lot of extra work for the people that are left behind and the additional stress of worrying about how the work's going to get done or what work can't be done and realigning priorities.

[16:30]

The work of the maintenance enforcement office is very important work for a lot of people and certainly some of my constituents. Indeed I have constituents that were in just last Friday worrying about maintenance enforcement orders. So I know that they're there, and they're doing good work for the government of Saskatchewan.

The purpose of this Bill is that the minister indicated that there was a review done recently and so there's some improvements that are being proposed at this time. The Bill adds a new provision to the court to allow suspension of certain enforcement actions for a period of six months. So that's one of the things the minister indicated that was a good move.

The second one is it allows them to enforce a maintenance order against assets located in Saskatchewan in cases where the payor lives somewhere else and the maintenance order is being enforced in other jurisdictions. So it provides some of that provincial, extraprovincial continuity that helps the people that are the owners of the order or the people, the spouse or the parent that's responsible for the custody of the child. So it's definitely one that smooths out that process and allows things to operate a lot more efficiently interprovincially.

And then finally, I think there's provisions on the confidentiality provisions in the Act, how information is going to be released.

So there's quite a few changes in the Act, and I'll just take a couple of minutes now, Mr. Speaker, to look at some of those changes. Of course the idea of having an ability of a court to intervene in a spousal arrangement or custody arrangement is well established in our country. And it's one that I think has been controversial in many ways, and it's very difficult when people are splitting up and separating for these custody arrangements to be dealt with. And there's been a number of cases go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada on this

and what the rights of the children are, what the rights of the spouses are, and what kind of obligations are to be provided for by the non-custodial parent.

Obviously we don't get orders for maintenance when people are together. It's only at the point of separation that we see the court intervening in these kinds of relationships. And at that point, you know, the obligation of the non-custodial parent is crystallized in law. So you know, it's interesting to think that if a couple stayed together and one partner wasn't providing for their children, there's no ability for the court to intervene, but certainly once the divorce or the separation takes place, the courts under the current law can step in and assist the custodial parent to ensure that there is support paid for the children by the other partner or the parent of the children.

There's a whole procedural process for getting these custody orders or maintenance enforcement orders in place and that's in the existing Bill. So this Bill is just amending *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act*, and there's a few new definitions that show up. They took away the word garnishee and garnishment out of this Bill, and the reason given for that is it allows this Bill to be more, more similar and well, more similar than other provincial Bills that deal with maintenance enforcement. So that's one of the main changes you will see, is the substitution in that case wherever it said garnishment, you will see seizure of account, and where it used to say garnish, it would be seizure. So that seems to be one of the prevailing changes in the Bill.

There's a new section that's being added regarding interest and how interest is calculated on late payments. So that's something that probably was seen as an omission in the previous Bill, so that gives an ability for a calculation of interest on arrears in the case of arrears.

The other changes that we see, there's a number of changes in regarding seizure from outside of Saskatchewan. So in the case where the director of the maintenance enforcement office is looking for seizure outside of Saskatchewan, they can serve a notice of seizure directed to any person that's alleged to be indebted to the payor if the person seeking seizure files a maintenance order with the director as well as a document that purports to be issued by the appropriate authority and the reciprocating jurisdiction, and if that document appears to look like a seizure notice, and it's issued with respect to support, alimony, or maintenance. So that's how the director can serve a notice of seizure here. As long as they see one that's comparable in another jurisdiction and it meets the rules in this section, then they can issue a notice of seizure here in Saskatchewan. So that's helpful.

I guess one other comment that I do want to make is in section 53(1), and these are some key changes that are being proposed by this Bill. I just need to find that section. 53(1) is added . . . And there it is. It's added to authorize the court to order suspension of enforcement measures, but it places restrictions on the order. So the preliminary clause says, if the director has commenced a default hearing under section 51, then the payor can apply to the court for an order suspending enforcement measures on any conditions the court considers appropriate, but it cannot exceed six months.

So this is a big change for the Bill in that in some cases where the debtor, the parent paying support or the spousal support, is not able to meet his obligations or her obligations . . . So what this does is allows the director some discretion in the enforcement of the order. And before they'll seek seizure or garnishment, they are allowed to give an extra six months.

It's I guess a notion of fairness in some ways, Mr. Speaker, but obviously it will impose a hardship on the custodial parent if the period is, or the order is suspended for six months. But the court is required to be satisfied that it is for valid reasons. And we all know that things happen, and for whatever reason someone may not be able to meet their obligations for . . . You can imagine a host of situations where that might rise. So in that case, the court now has some discretion there to enforce, or suspend I guess, the obligation to pay for a period not exceeding six months.

There's a number of other changes in this particular Bill that are fairly administrative and semantic. So at this point, I think we can say that we've concluded our comments for the time being, and I am going to propose that we move this Bill to committee, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 29, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — This Bill stands deferred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

### Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 30** — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure I rise today to speak to Bill 30, the fairly lengthy name, *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011*.

The minister, when he rose in the House to speak to this on March 5th, indicated that it amends 11 English-only Acts that refer to garnishments pursuant to *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. And as you will recall, on the previous Bill, I was speaking to the notion that the word “garnishment” has been removed in order to provide consistency with other enforcement Acts across Canada as the reason and the motivation for these changes. So there’s a number of Bills that are being amended as a result of the changes to . . . the proposed changes in Bill 29 that we just spoke to.

*The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* is now amended, and they just strike out the word “garnishment” from the relevant sections in that Act.

In *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*, they repeal the section that refers to the previous Act. And they’re going to substitute a new section 81, and this is a prohibition against discharging an employee for seizure proceedings. So if someone’s had a garnishment or now a seizure of their account, any employee, they cannot be fired for that reason. So this is just cleaning up the language in that clause.

*The Labour Standards Act*, there’s a section 81 that is also being amended, and again just striking out the word “garnishment” and putting in “notice of seizure.”

And clause 53 of *The Municipal Employees’ Pension Act* is now amended again striking out “garnishment,” substituting “seizure.”

*The Pension Benefits Act*, similar changes to that one.

And *The Provincial Court Act* is also amended and the word “garnishment” is struck and the word “seizure” is substituted.

Under *The Public Employees Pension Plan Act*, we have the same kind of changes in section 23(2) of that Act where “garnishment” is struck and the word “seizure” is substituted.

The section 8 of *The Saskatchewan Income Plan Act* is repealed and a new section is substituted that again talks to seizure. I assume the one that’s being repealed refers to garnishment. Also not just the income plan Act, but *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act* is amended again striking out “garnishment” and substituting “seizure.”

The superannuation or supplementary provisions Act is amended, and again striking out “garnishment” and substituting “seizure.”

So you see the impact of this maintenance enforcement orders on a number of pieces of legislation. Obviously it affects people’s pensions, income plans, and superannuation plans as well. And even the final amendment under this consequential Act is the amendment of *The Workers’ Compensation Act*, again to strike out “garnishment” and substituting “seizure.”

So you could see the pervasive effect of the maintenance enforcement orders Act really on society and across our legislative agenda. These are important . . . The maintenance enforcement office is an important office in Saskatchewan, and

it provides a service for again people that can be in vulnerable situations, particularly people who have custody of their children and require support from the other parent to ensure that the children receive the best that they can, given the financial circumstances that they find themselves in.

So it’s an interventionist role on the part of government, but it’s one that’s necessary. And although I know there are difficulties on both sides when you need to resort to the maintenance enforcement office, quite a few people are able to resolve those disputes and provide for their children without having to resort to that office, and that’s good. As I spoke earlier, it’s always better to negotiate and mediate and find some sort of win-win situation for families when these types of situations arise. But in many cases that just isn’t the case, Mr. Speaker, so in those situations this kind of office is necessary. And it may seem harsh or arbitrary by some people who have orders filed against them, but by and large I think the goal of these Acts and this type of legislation is to protect children and ensure that children are looked after, even in the cases where there may be spouses or parents who aren’t able or aren’t willing to uphold their responsibilities to those children.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, the changes on this particular Bill seem fairly straightforward and necessary. So at this point I would like to move this Bill to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 30, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

[16:45]

### Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 31** — *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur l’exécution des jugements canadiens* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill, *An Act to*

amend *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, 2002* and to make related amendments to *The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act*, is a further Bill in the suite that I've been speaking to in Bill 29 and Bill 30, and in this case it's about protection orders. So it's not so much about enforcement orders any more; it's about protection orders where people have an order that's been given by a court to protect them from someone else. And again it's about personal safety, and certainly about public safety and the need for protection from certain individuals who simply will not stay away, basically, from the person for whom the order has been given.

This is a terrible, threatening situation in many cases and quite often involves domestic disputes, Mr. Speaker, and very unfortunate circumstances that people find themselves in when there's a breakdown and an inability on the behalf of one person to stay away from another person. Certainly we've seen some very notable public cases of that. I know that Anne Murray was one of the victims of these types of things. And we see it in the news from time to time where people are simply being pursued by an individual in a way that's not healthy or safe, and they are able to apply to the courts to get that type of order to protect themselves. Not always are the orders sufficient, and tragedy can ensue, but in most cases I think the orders provide some level of comfort to the people who are suffering from this kind of situation, and it's the best we can do, I think, as a society to help protect these people.

This Bill, in this case, is attempting to provide for recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders in the same expedited manner that we now have for out-of-province Canadian protection orders. So we've sorted out our house as far as Canada goes and on a national level, but this Bill is attempting to do it on a foreign level. So they're trying to, we're trying to make sure that the foreign protection orders are treated in the same way.

Apparently this is the first province, Saskatchewan will be the first province to introduce this Bill. It has been recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. And the minister reminded us in his comments on March 5th that in 2008, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act* was amended to provide for special rules to enforce the national level of protection orders, and the Canadian civil protection order was defined to mean an order that was made in any Canadian jurisdiction. That prohibited a lot of activity including where one person could intimidate, threaten, coerce or harass another person.

So these are just foreign civil protection orders that will cover the same subject matter in an order made by a foreign court.

Again the minister pointed out that these amendments and the previous amendments from the Canadian protection orders Act were just implementing recommendations from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. So they concluded, that conference, that where a Canadian court has determined an individual needs protection, it should be immediately enforceable insofar as that is possible. And so they wanted to make sure that that language was there because it often extended . . . There could be a delay in time before the order was enforceable in the other jurisdiction and that would put the individual at risk for sure. There's no financial or property ownership consequences in these cases.

And in an emergency situation with an individual potentially at risk, the choice of recognizing orders from a foreign state over formalistic approach enforcement requirements is consistent with the principled victims-first approach to this issue. And I think that's appropriate, Mr. Speaker. The victims are the ones that need to be protected, and if you get formalistic procedures that hold up the process to get the order enforceable, then the sheriff's hands are tied, the police hands are tied, and the victim is going to be in jeopardy because of that. So I think that's an appropriate change and one that will provide for safety and, as the minister indicated, a victims-first approach.

So they're also amending the Act by coordinating the new procedural option with the existing process for the enforcement of foreign judgments. So the minister's indicated that in his view there's a balance of interest here protecting an individual at risk and the possibility of violence arising from failure to act. And it strongly tilts it towards expedited recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders.

So the Bill itself is fairly straightforward. There's a change to part III of the existing Act. And what it says is, there's now a definition for foreign civil protection order. And it's a fairly lengthy definition, but it talks about as a foreign judgment or a portion of a foreign judgment that's made by a court in a foreign state. And here's the requirements: that kind of order has to prohibit a specified individual from being in close physical proximity to the person or following them from place to place. They cannot contact or communicate with them. They cannot attend at or within a certain distance of a specified place. So it could also indicate a location, like a home, for the person that's being harassed. And they cannot engage in molesting, annoying, harassing, or threatening conduct at a specified person. So as long as that foreign order has these components in it, then it becomes a foreign civil protection order as defined in Saskatchewan law, and then there's a definition for foreign judgment as well. So in this case, it's not just the protection order, but it could also be a foreign judgment which would be defined in *The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act*, and that Bill is being amended as well as *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act*.

The next clause that's added is a deeming of the order, so in this case a Canadian civil protection order or a foreign civil protection order is deemed to be an order of the Court of Queen's Bench. So that brings it within our Saskatchewan law, and at this point it's now enforceable by sheriffs and by police authorities.

So the next section we have is the enforcement by law enforcement authorities. And that tells us, now that it's enforceable by Queen's Bench, then it's also one that can be enforced by law enforcement authorities, and the same thing goes for a foreign civil protection order. So this is for both of them — the Canadian civil protection order and the foreign protection orders.

There's another clause, clause 10.4 will allow these orders to be registered and enforced, and there's clause 10.5 is the immunity clause.

So those are the basic changes to this particular Bill, and I think they're in order. And it appears that again the Ministry of



Justice is doing good work in relation to the improvement of our legislative suite in relation to maintenance enforcement orders and enforcement of judgments, including protection orders and civil protection orders.

So I don't have any further comments at this point, Mr. Speaker, in relation to this Bill, so I would like to move it to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 31, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2011* be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

### Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 32** — *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I am rising with great pleasure to speak to this Bill. It's Bill 32, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act*. We have some extensive comments by the minister on this one. And I have had an opportunity to speak to it previously, so I don't have a lot more to say today, but I just wanted to review how this Bill came about. And as the minister indicated, there is a national organization — it's an interjurisdictional support sub-committee — and they've been making recommendations to these types of legislation for quite some time now. And this is sort of a fulfillment of the recommendations of the national organization that is looking at these support orders.

So basically it's like the other Bills I just spoke to, where we have civil protection orders or maintenance orders. Now we're talking about interjurisdictional support orders. So it's requiring courts to apply, first and foremost, the law of Saskatchewan when considering an application for interjurisdictional support, and this is for child support. And always the law of Saskatchewan will prevail because the child is then entitled to support under Saskatchewan law.

What we're trying to get at here under the interjurisdictional support orders process, it's not clear if the order itself or the court file, not clear from the order or from the court file if it was made pursuant to federal or provincial legislation because, as you know, divorce proceedings are governed by federal law and applicants can start a variation application for their support order and find out they did it under the wrong Act. So this will just require the court to state in the order what legislation that it was made, and it will help eliminate the need for multiple applications to be made or filed with the court.

So in this case, during an interjurisdictional support order application, the court in the reciprocating jurisdiction can request additional information from the applicant and then they can amend the court order subsequently. And this would reduce the time period for providing that information from 18 to 12 months because 18 months is a very long time for these types of orders.

They also add a new provision in the amendments to establish location services in order to allow other jurisdictions to request a search for a person in Saskatchewan prior to sending an application to the ISO [interjurisdictional support order] unit. So Saskatchewan's ISO unit, or interjurisdictional support orders unit, gets applications from other places but they can't confirm whether the respondent is living in Saskatchewan. So in that case, the ISO unit can determine that they don't live in Saskatchewan and the application would then be sent back to the originating jurisdiction if it continues to search for the respondent. And that's basically the changes that these amendments will do. They're replacing ordinarily resident with habitually resident to be consistent with the Hague Convention, but other than that, Mr. Speaker, there aren't a lot of changes in this Bill. And I think is something that again goes to consistency and it goes to the work that the lawyers and the bureaucrats over at the Ministry of Justice are looking after.

And again I just want to commend them for the work that they do because we know that they're important people in the bureaucratic process. So at that point, I don't have any further comments and I would like to move this Bill to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 32, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I

recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.]



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