



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

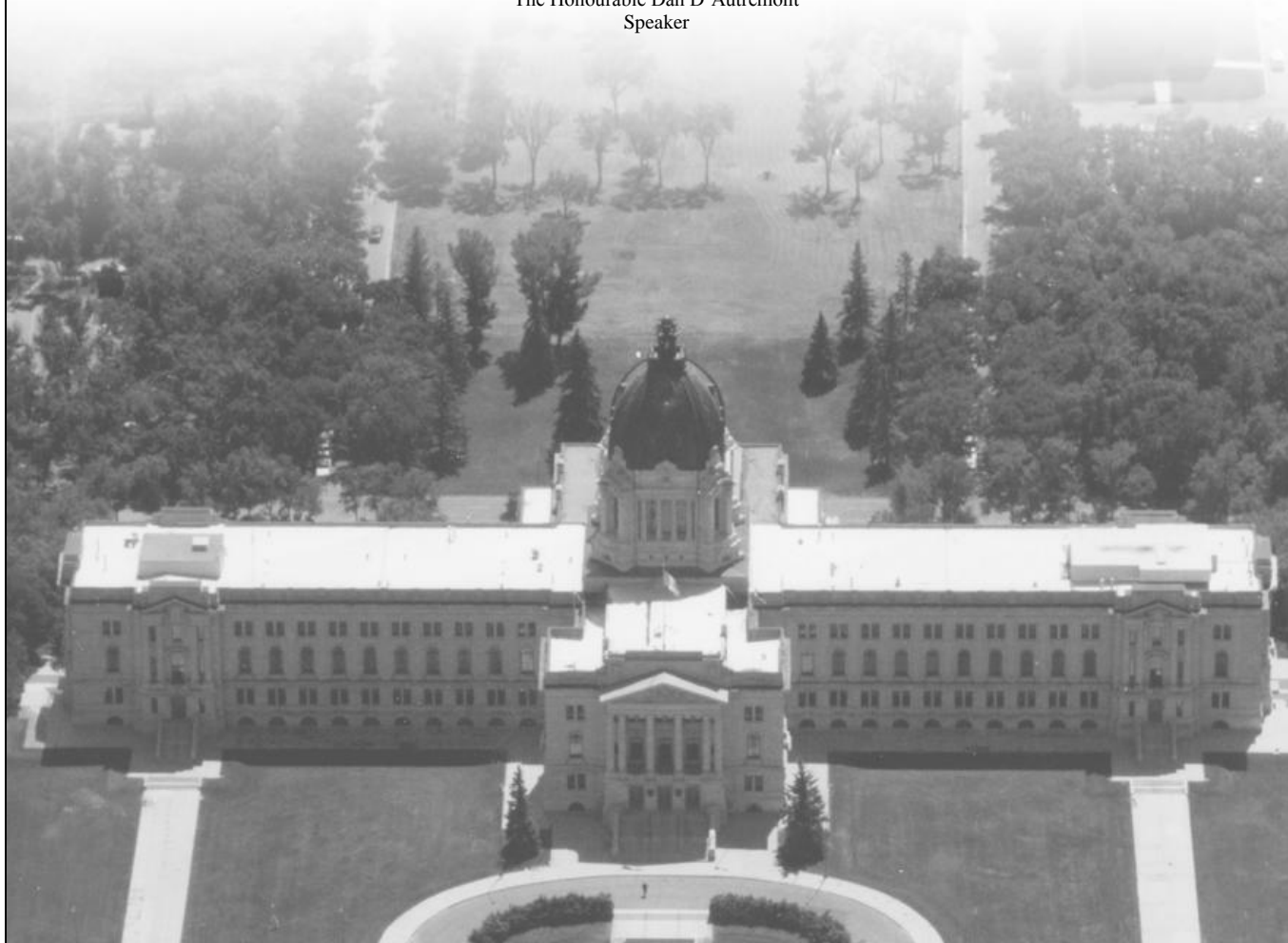
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<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. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce some guests who have joined us in the government gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're here to help mark the 100th anniversary of Huskie athletics from the University of Saskatchewan, and so I'm going to introduce each of them and ask maybe that they give us a wave or stand — whatever they're comfortable with.

Mr. Speaker, beginning with Dr. Carol Rodgers, dean of the College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan. And joining in support of the U of S anniversary from the University of Regina is Dr. Craig Chamberlin, dean of Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the U of R. Councillor Wade Murray from the city of Swift Current . . . from the city of Regina — Regina, Swift Current — representing very effectively ward 6. We want to welcome Councillor Murray as well. Basil Hughton, Huskies athletic director; Kyle Ross, Huskies men's hockey team; Jason Grieve, Huskies women's volleyball head coach; Ashley MacNeill, women's wrestling team; Robin Ulrich, women's hockey assistant coach; and, Mr. Speaker, Amy Prokop, Huskie athlete services officer and member of the centennial planning committee; Naomi Selent, member of the centennial planning committee; Cheryl Sedgewick, member of the centennial planning committee; Heather Dawson, member of the centennial planning committee; Merry Beazely, member of the centennial planning committee.

Mr. Speaker, they are marking 100 years of Huskie athletics. Centennial events have been held over the past year to encompass the themes of heritage, alumni, education, and legacy. And the events of course are also being held to pay tribute to Huskie athletics, their stakeholders, and their supporters both past and present. A fitness initiative involving hundreds of young people across the province has also been a part of the celebrations called the Huskie Centennial Walk, and a walk was held here at the Legislative Assembly grounds today.

Mr. Speaker, obviously at both of our campuses, we have dynamic and very successful athletic programs. It's very, very true at the University of Saskatchewan and may I just say through you and to you to all members, we want to welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly. We want to thank them for their leadership in Huskie athletics and to our friend from the U of R in Cougar athletics as well. Mr. Speaker, welcome to your Assembly, I would say, as well as, go dogs.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier in celebrating 100 years of Huskies at the U of S. We know that the Huskies add so much to life on campus, but not just on campus, to life in Saskatoon and indeed the entire province. So a very impressive delegation representing the good work that has occurred for many decades and also the good work that is ongoing on campus. So I'd like to, on behalf of the official opposition, join with the Premier in welcoming this group to the Assembly and wish them all the best as the celebrations continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I would like to introduce three guests seated in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. The first one is Andrea Robertson who is the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society]. And also joining her is Ron Dufresne who's vice-president of Saskatchewan operations, and Darcy McKay, clinical operations manager and flight paramedic.

Mr. Speaker, of course these three are in the gallery today because it was a very special day out at the Regina airport when we announced the launch of STARS. There'll be more in the member's statement so I don't want to take thunder away. But I do want to say that I want to thank Darcy who guided me through my first helicopter ride today, Mr. Speaker. And I think they put a paramedic on board just in case I didn't do so well, Mr. Speaker. But I want to thank those three, as well as an amazing team of individuals that will be supplying this one extra step of our EMS [emergency medical services] system, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the patients get timely and safe care in our province. I want to thank them in advance of all the work that they're going to be doing in the province in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the delegation from STARS. Clearly ambulance service in the province is so very important. I didn't know that the minister was up in the air today, and perhaps he's tucked away the aviators for question period. But this is a very serious issue, Mr. Speaker, and I would welcome this group to the Assembly here today. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce through you and to you a couple of grandparents who've joined us in the Assembly today, David and Heather McMillan. And they asked me a while back if they might be able to bring their grandson, Aaden, and their granddaughter, Aurora, to the Legislative Assembly for just an educational opportunity. So I want everyone to join with me in extending a warm welcome to them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you somebody who you know well who is sitting behind the bar, Mr. Kim Trew now of Elbow, Saskatchewan and the former member from Coronation Park in Regina. I know all members of the legislature will give him a warm welcome. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to welcome the teachers and ministry officials we have here today, ministry officials of Education for the Saskatchewan institute on parliamentary democracy. These teachers, these officials on a daily basis, do such important work in the classroom here in Saskatchewan. These educators are from across Saskatchewan, here for a couple of days or a few days of meetings and of an institute of which the goal is to strengthen their understanding of our democratic process. And I know these inspiring teachers will certainly instill that importance of the democratic process in students, engagement back into their students in the days, weeks, and years ahead, Mr. Speaker.

So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming the very special teachers that have joined us here today, and one of the organizing officials with the Ministry of Education, Mr. Brent Toles.

And while still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss not to mention and highlight a community leader that's with us here today. Mr. Gerry Harris, who has played an instrumental role in Luther Invitational Tournament here in Regina, has been a . . . is certainly an athlete who played for the Huskies. He was a menacing force on the football field. To this day he still, I think, could take that field and fare quite well.

Mr. Harris was also a teacher, lifelong teacher and coach, Mr. Speaker. He's also an entrepreneur who's very successful. I know that the students and players that had Mr. Harris influence their lives know that he was somebody they could count on, somebody that would challenge them, but also somebody who is compassionate. So I'd like to . . . He's also been inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame recently, Mr. Speaker, and truly a Regina leader. He's also important to my family — he's my wife's godparent and someone I count as a good friend. So it's such a pleasure to have Mr. Harris here today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you're, in a few moments, going to provide a formal welcome and introduction of our guests in your gallery from the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy], from the teachers' institute, but I was remiss in my earlier introduction of the folks from Huskie athletics in not acknowledging our guests from SSTI.

We're grateful that the institute continues to move ahead at full strength. And I had the great opportunity to meet with the teachers that have joined us here today, this morning in the cabinet room, and then a little bit in the Premier's office. And there was a short Q & A [question and answer]. But, Mr. Speaker, we're obviously hopeful that the teachers find the program very rewarding. I'm looking actually at their program,

and they don't have a lot of spare time built in here, Mr. Speaker. So again, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, we welcome them here to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with members opposite welcoming city councillor Wade Murray to his Legislative Assembly. Wade not only does a fine job for the people of ward 6, of which I am one, Mr. Speaker, but certainly they hold down the 7 block King in fine fashion, Wade and his spouse, Laura, and their family. But the Huskie delegation couldn't have picked a better host for this occasion, Mr. Speaker. So it's good to see Wade Murray, city councillor in the city of Regina, here in his Legislative Assembly. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Wade Murray to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, obviously the Premier has already made appropriate and warm introductions to the University of Saskatchewan delegation. From the University of Regina we have a board member here. Ms. Brenda Barootes is here, and I'd also like her to be recognized and ask everyone in the Assembly to welcome her to her Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you very much. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the teachers in the gallery. And as they can see, our students of politics are very anxious to be involved in this. So it's my pleasure to introduce to you a group of teachers who are in the Legislative Assembly to attend the 14th annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday and will conclude on this coming Wednesday.

This group has already met with a number of people including the members of the judiciary, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer, and the Clerk. Earlier today they met with caucus staff from both sides of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the House leaders. And they are scheduled still to meet with the caucus Chairs, the caucus Whips, several MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], and cabinet ministers.

At this time I would like to introduce the individual teachers; if they would like to give a wave, please. And the first one on the list, based on alphabetical order, is Mr. Jeffrey Ambrosia of Thom Collegiate in Regina; Ms. Ashley Anholt of Saskatoon Christian School; Ms. Cara Fleischhacker of St. Brieux School; Mrs. Melissa Grona of the Invermay School; Mr. Daniel Headrick of the University of Regina; Ms. Melissa Loder of the Kyle Composite School; Mrs. Erica Long from the University of Saskatchewan; Ms. Kimberley Lynchuk of the Kenaston School; Mr. Andrew Neufeldt of the Blaine Lake Composite School; Mr. Pat Orobko of the Unity Composite High School; Mr. Terrance Pelletier of the Cowessess Community Education Unit, Cowessess First Nation; Mr. Thomas Skelton, University of Saskatchewan; Ms. Ali Strunk, University of Saskatchewan; and Ms. Shayna Zubko of the Esterhazy High School.

I'd also like to make special mention of our steering committee, composed of three teachers who attended past institutes and an official from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education we have Brent Toles, and we have Ms. Maria Sparvier of the Cowessess Community Education Centre, Robert Jardine from the Blaine Lake Composite School, and Ms. Corinne Harcourt of the Englefeld School.

I'd like to ask all members to welcome these teachers to their legislature.

As well at this time I would like to introduce Mr. Kevin Fenwick, the Ombudsman, and joining him here today are Ms. Leila Dueck, Kelly Chessie, Greg Sykes, and Pat Lyon.

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — At this time I would like to table the 2011 annual report of the Ombudsman.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present another petition calling for protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. And we know that 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 that British Columbia and other provinces have brought several safety precautions through law, including a requirement that workers cannot be alone during late-night, early morning hours. And if they are required to work, there must be protective barriers such as locked doors and protective glass. 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, I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually standing today to present a petition on Highway 165. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan undertake to upgrade the section of Highway 165 between Beauval and English River First Nation by adding proper lighting for pedestrian traffic, by adding space for pedestrians on the highways and its bridges, and by properly surfacing the road with the material needed for a busy, heavy-haul road.

And the people who have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from Beauval, and I so present.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to education in our province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your 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 and 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 Big River, Prince Albert, and Regina. I so submit.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Success for Saskatchewan Golfer

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At this time of day we often hear members talking about important sporting achievements in their constituency by individuals and teams. A disproportionate number of them seem to come from Arm River-Watrous and Carrot River Valley.

But I want to rise if I can, Mr. Speaker, and draw some attention to a sporting event that happened in New Orleans over the weekend where the PGA held its Zurich Classic, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan sporting history was made there. Keegan Bradley, Graeme McDowell, Geoff Ogilvy, Ben Curtis, and Bubba Watson have some things in common. First of all, they've all won majors on the PGA. Bubba Watson most recently won the Masters. Here's what else they have in common. They all finished behind Graham DeLaet from Weyburn, Saskatchewan, who tied for fourth in the PGA event in New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, Graham was 16 under and tied for fourth. He birdied the last hole after getting on in two on a par 5, hitting his two iron. The announcers noted that hardly anyone even carries a two iron around on the PGA. Mr. Speaker, Graham DeLaet for about, well three years — he had to take last year off for medical leave — has been really excelling at golf, putting Saskatchewan on the map, making those American golf announcers learn how to pronounce the province of

Saskatchewan correctly. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we would take this day, on this historic and unprecedented achievement, to say to Graham DeLaet, thank you very, very much for representing us so well and all the best the rest of the way out, Mr. Speaker.

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

### 100th Anniversary of Huskie Athletics

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Huskie athletics at the University of Saskatchewan. I am honoured to represent the constituency in which the U of S is located, and I've had the pleasure of being involved in the centennial celebrations.

Huskie athletics has provided hundreds of students with the opportunity to develop their personal and professional knowledge of life skills with athletic competition and becoming well-rounded student athletes. Centennial events have been held throughout the year to encompass the themes of heritage, alumni, education, and legacy, and pay tribute to Huskie athletes and stakeholders, both past and present. A highlight of the celebration has been the Huskie Centennial Walk, a provincial fitness initiative that involved hundreds of young people from communities across the province.

I have handed out centennial pins to all members today, and I extend an invitation to join Huskie representatives in completing the centennial walk initiative, a walk around this beautiful building this afternoon. Notwithstanding the proud allegiances of our hon. members to the Rams, the Cougars, and other teams of home communities, but for a brief time this afternoon we invite you to follow the catch phrase of the centennial which is, we are all Huskies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to put on their centennial pin and join me in congratulating the University of Saskatchewan in this impressive achievement. Thank you.

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

### French-Language Film Festival in Saskatoon

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend the city of Saskatoon played host to Festival Cinergie, Saskatchewan's international French language film festival. Celebrating its seventh year, the film festival presents us with a richer understanding of the diversity and vitality of our Fransaskois community while allowing audiences to travel the world with films from the Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Belgium, and across Canada.

Cinema helps us to better reflect on our world, our society, each other, and ourselves. In addition to screening a wide variety of films from comedy to drama to animation to experimental art films, Festival Cinergie provided several opportunities for festival goers to engage in thought-provoking activities through workshops and discussions.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, my daughter was fortunate

enough to attend the screening of *Un monstre à Paris*, an animated movie set in Paris in 1910, centred on a monster who lives in a garden and his love for a beautiful young singer. And she loved the film, Mr. Speaker.

The arts are vital to developing our identity, inspiring creativity, spurring innovation, and contributing to the economy. Much work went into making this wonderful and valuable event happen. And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank la Fédération des francophones de Saskatoon for continuing to host this festival, and the festival director, Tao Chamberlin, for all of her hard work and insight in organizing this spectacle.

I would also like to extend much appreciation to the Cinergie Festival planning committee, Audrey Adele-Rose, Gisèle Lalonde, Eric Lefol, Laurette Lefol, Sarah Marchildon, and Ludovic Piejos, for their contributions to putting on this marvellous event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence

**Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday night I had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of the Premier, the Government of Saskatchewan, and SaskTel at the 14th annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. Also joining me that night was the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

These awards were established in 1997 to recognize achievements of Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan. These awards are supported by the public, government, and private sectors, and SaskTel has been a proud sponsor since the beginning. These awards celebrate the achievements of Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth in 10 categories, where judges are most interested in personal sacrifice, determination, effort, commitment, attitude, demonstrations of leadership, and a sense of Aboriginal culture and language. These judges look to recognize youth who have a balanced lifestyle, display strong values, are physically fit, demonstrate academic success, and are inspiring leaders in their communities.

It is important that our youth have positive role models to emulate and, while having positive role models is important, we know that having great role models in one's peer group is even more important. The award winners and nominees present on Friday evening were all examples of achievers who will move forward and inspire the upcoming generation.

I would invite members of this Assembly to join me in applauding the great work of all nominees and winners at this year's Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Saskatchewan Book Awards

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise before the Assembly today to acknowledge the Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala, which I attended this past Saturday at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards celebrate excellence and diversity in Saskatchewan writing and publishing. Each year the SBA [Saskatchewan Book Awards] presents over a dozen awards to celebrate and recognize the achievements of our province's authors and publishers.

This year, Mr. Speaker, the keynote address was given by Mark Abley, a highly respected author, journalist, and editor who grew up in Saskatoon. Mr. Abley is known for his work as a freelance writer, a feature writer for the *Montreal Gazette*, a book review editor, literary columnist, and author of several books. As Mr. Abley remarked, Saskatchewan's publishers continue to do great work and the province need not worry about how it stacks up in relation to a Toronto or Ottawa or anyone like that. Saskatchewan stacks up very well by anybody's standards. I could not agree more.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the nominees and award winners for their outstanding works. And of course many thanks go to the Saskatchewan Book Awards staff and board members for doing such impressive work in promoting greater awareness of Saskatchewan books, authors, and publishers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Emergency Medical Care Milestone

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks a landmark for emergency medical services in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, as of this afternoon, STARS medical helicopters are available for southern Saskatchewan patients who need emergency medical care.

Mr. Speaker, reaching this milestone required vision, commitment, and a willingness on the part of many partners to serve Saskatchewan people. We thank the corporate and individual donors who helped make this possible: our founding donor Crescent Point Energy, Mosaic, PotashCorp, Enbridge, Energy Plus, Husky, and Rawlco Radio. Mr. Speaker, our government is also a proud supporter of this new initiative within our province.

In emergencies, minutes can make the difference between life and death. We know that STARS will help us reach critically ill or injured patients sooner. We know it will save lives.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming months, the Regina STARS base will expand to 24-7 service, helipads will be developed here and in communities across the province, and later on in the fall we'll have a second STARS base open up in Saskatoon. With each new development, Saskatchewan people have better access to emergency medical care.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all those that STARS will help in the future, thank you to everyone who has played a role in bringing this exceptional service to Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

#### Partnership Supports First Nations Workers

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today and speak about a fabulous new partnership that was recently forged between Xtreme Mining & Demolition and the Kahkewistahaw First Nation. The two groups have entered into a working agreement in which Xtreme Mining will hire First Nations students, giving members of the Kahkewistahaw community opportunities to work in the mining sector.

Eight students were chosen out of a list of 35 applicants, and these talented individuals will complete a hands-on orientation prior to beginning work. Once these students have completed the course, they will be employed by Potash Corp, Mosaic, and Agrium potash mining companies.

Len Banga, president of Xtreme Mining, was proud of this agreement, citing the importance of the potash industry in Saskatchewan and the growing importance of Aboriginal employees in the province's workforce. Between 2007 and 2011, off-reserve Aboriginal employment has increased by 8.2 per cent, a great statistic demonstrating the results of improved education and employment investments as well as the strong state of the Saskatchewan economy.

Banga stated that the general managers see this as a step in the right direction for the mining industry and the province of Saskatchewan. We are dedicated to making this work now and into the future.

Xtreme Mining and Demolition has a current staff of 160 employees and operates out of Saskatoon. I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these two groups on the signing of this working agreement and focusing on the continued improvement of our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Funding for Education

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, students waited three years for the Sask Party to come up with a new education funding formula. When it, along with the budget, was finally presented, it was clear there were deficiencies. Divisions across Saskatchewan are left with shortfalls. As a result, the impacts will be felt by students. At a time of growth in this province, why is the minister forcing school boards, students, and teachers to sacrifice?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has been very supportive of education. We consider it a priority for the future of our growth. And indeed we are growing. We have increased the education budget over our course of being government by over 21 per cent now as well as invested over half a billion dollars into capital projects.

We will be working with school divisions who have raised some questions on their budgets. Just last week — and I'm

assuming the member opposite is referring to Saskatoon — Saskatoon, I met with the Saskatoon public school division and their request was how we react in future years of the funding formula more quickly to increases in students. And we talked about a couple of solutions that we could perhaps implement, and those discussions, I think, are very, very important as we move forward with the school divisions. But I do want to point out that the urban school divisions received increases as well as all school divisions across our province.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the increases the minister speaks of simply don't cover the growth and enrolment or the inflationary costs in education. So it results in cuts, Mr. Speaker.

Both the Saskatoon public and Catholic school boards have said they're falling short of millions of dollars of what they need. George Rathwell, director of Saskatoon public, said, I quote, "We've got our work cut out for us on this one." And Bev Hanson, director of Saskatoon Catholic, said, "We do have a shortfall in this budget."

How is it fair that the government's failure to address growing enrolments in a responsible manner is forcing school boards and teachers to make choices that will negatively impact students?

[14:00]

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I do have to question the member opposite's numbers. I think he's still using the campaign calculator because indeed his numbers are a little off. He said that our increases are not keeping up with the increase of enrolment, but in fact Saskatoon Public, Mr. Speaker, their increase in enrolment was 1.7 per cent. The increase in their budget was 7 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that's a significant increase. That does not include capital dollars; that is 7 per cent for operating only.

For the Saskatoon Catholic school division, the increase in enrolment was 3.3 per cent. The increase in their budget, Mr. Speaker, was 6 per cent, and again that does not include the capital dollars for their capital projects. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of the NDP's [New Democratic Party] math, but 7 per cent is quite substantially more than 1.7 per cent.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I guess the minister knows better than those delivering education in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker.

Presenting both opportunities and challenges, many of the new students in schools are new Canadians who need some extra support as it relates to English, and that takes resources. We've been calling for action on this front, and school divisions are speaking out. Bev Hanson, director of Saskatoon Catholic, said, I quote, "A lot of students making up our increase require English as an additional language supports, so that diversity combined with unprecedented enrolment growth is posing some challenges."

Why is the minister shortchanging school boards, teachers, and students and not enabling them to meet the growing demands of English as an additional language?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I thank the member opposite for recycling a question he had a couple weeks ago, and so I am very happy to repeat yet again that the English as an additional language teachers has increased in our province by 51 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, yes, growth does pose some challenges, but it's something that we don't want to back away from. These are very, very exciting times in the province of Saskatchewan. And we're not going back to the NDP days where they underfunded education. They forced the taxpayers to have a tax revolt within our province. They did not address the inequities from one school division to another due to differences in tax wealth. So, Mr. Speaker, we do not want to go back to that system, and I am looking forward to working with our school divisions as we move forward.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I guess the official opposition, just so the minister's aware, will continue to make the call for action on this front until we see some from government.

Growth in this province does come with opportunities and challenges, and they need to be dealt with in a meaningful and responsible manner. On the specific issue of increased enrolment, education funding is based on student population from the previous September. This has left Saskatoon school boards alone with over 1,000 students in there, registered but without proper funding. School boards are calling on government to provide funding based on enrolment in the current school year. It was mentioned here today by the minister. We called for this in committee. We called for it last week on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that can be solved. Will the minister agree to fund school boards on the number of students registered in the current school year and meet the demands of growth?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm surprised that the Finance critic doesn't realize that the school fiscal year and the government fiscal year do not line up, which is a difficulty that we have and why I met with the Saskatoon Public School Division just last Thursday to discuss different ways that we can address it in a more timely manner. I have promised school divisions that we will be revisiting different challenges within the new funding formula. This September we'll have a debrief, and we'll be able to identify different areas where adjustments can be made.

But they are all very clear, nor do they want to go back to what the NDP were doing. And the NDP was underfunding education. They were downloading onto property owners. There was a tax revolt within our province. We have significantly not



only backfilled the property tax, but we have increased funding for education by 21 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we are going to stay working with our partners in education to find solutions, not with the NDP because they allowed all of this to happen year over year.

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

### Agricultural Programming and Supply Management

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of cuts to agriculture as a result of the federal budget, and these cuts have had a negative impact on Saskatchewan farmers. Mr. Speaker, the cuts have impacted agriculture research, the shelterbelt program at Indian Head, meat inspectors, and community pastures.

When I asked recently about the impacts of the federal budget on Saskatchewan farmers, the minister said, “I’ll be talking to my federal counterpart, and we’ll have more information on that at that time.”

My question to the minister: what new information came out of his meeting with the federal minister? How is he planning on making up for federal agriculture cuts so that Saskatchewan farmers don’t suffer as a result?

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

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I did have the opportunity to meet with the federal minister last Friday morning. Got a commitment from the federal minister when it comes to community pastures: that being this year there would be no closures of pastures, next year there will be five, and the following year five, and then the balance in the next three years; that he would commit to making this a smooth transition to the patrons of those pastures. And we will certainly work with him to do that.

When it comes to the Indian Head tree nursery, actually the minister had said they’d had a couple of inquiries from the private sector to this point and are hoping that something materializes there and that that shelterbelt program can continue. And I hope so too, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, Minister Ritz was in Regina talking about the benefits of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or as referred to as CETA. A prominent business columnist has raised the following concern:

What the Harper government isn’t saying is that supply management and government support for agricultural research are bargaining chips that will be thrown into the pot to obtain favourable treatment from our trading partners.

My question to the minister: what other agriculture supports or programs are being used as bargaining chips?

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

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the federal minister made it very clear at the federal table when provincial ministers were there, when asked the question by Ontario and Quebec, that supply management would not be used as a bargaining chip at these trade talks. And I guess, Mr. Speaker, we can only take him at his word.

Mr. Speaker, the federal minister I think covered a number of areas, whether it was programming or research or a number of those issues, Mr. Speaker, and the federal government has made it their commitment to carry on with funding for those programs. And I again would take the federal minister at his word.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think the province of Saskatchewan and our Ministry of Agriculture has backed farmers very well over the past four and a half years. We took a program called Crop Insurance, it was gutted under the NDP, and rebuilt it again so there’s more acres under the program than there ever has been. Mr. Speaker, we’ve made a number of changes including the education tax on property when it comes to farmers across this province, something the NDP said they would deal with and never did deal with, Mr. Speaker. So I think we’ve been here for farmers in the first four and a half years, and we’re certainly going to continue to do that into the future.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There’s no doubt that CETA promises to boost trade and create jobs, but it could mean the end of supply management agriculture; specifically ag, dairy, and poultry marketing boards. A new report commissioned by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives says, “. . . the rest of the economy . . . cannot afford to be held hostage to demands by dairy and poultry producers to preserve the status quo.”

My question to the minister: does he agree with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives? Does he think the economy is being held hostage by the dairy and poultry producers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, our supply management industry in this province provides very good efficiency in food and value for the dollars that we pay in this province. They are also a very important part of the economy that we have in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I can only go by what the federal minister said. And I answered that in my first response that he made the commitment that it would be not used as a bargaining chip. And I don’t know where else I can go with that issue. Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the federal minister. I go by what he tells us and we will see what comes into the future.

On the other hand, we’re working on farm programs, as I said before, to continue to improve these programs for producers. The one thing I will say, and something that was not done in the

past, is provincially we are fully funding the programs that come up with the federal government and all the provinces in agreement. So, Mr. Speaker, I think producers are looking to us to provide programs on behalf of them, and I believe we have done that over the first four and a half years.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, my questions are about supply management, and that's what I would like an answer from the minister about. The author of that report is Michael Gifford, and he says that Canada should be taking steps now to help protect its sectors prepare for a future in which agricultural trade liberalization is inevitable and in Canada's national interest. Does the minister agree with this position? Or does he agree that poultry and dairy marketing boards are an essential feature of Saskatchewan's agricultural economy?

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

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how much more clearly I can answer this question. The supply management sector in the province of Saskatchewan, and for that matter across the country, is very important to consumers and in our case, to the economy of the provincial economy when it comes to the dairy industry, the chicken industry, the egg industry. All those entities provide a very good value for dollar in the province of Saskatchewan. So what I'm committing to today, and only going by what the federal minister committed to, is that they will not be using that as a pawn. So I don't know where the member is getting her information from, but I will rely on the federal minister and take him at his word.

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

### Support for Northern Housing

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, home ownership is something many people want, but in northern Saskatchewan it can be a challenge to reach that goal. Sask Housing had a rental purchase option that gave low-income people a chance to work towards buying their rental property. Unfortunately for many people wanting to take advantage of this program, the government indicated late last year that the program was being cancelled.

To the minister: why would the government end such a needed program that helped many low-income northern people become home owners?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be more than happy to get the details of that particular program for the member. I don't have that here right now but I am very proud of our government's record on housing. We have 1,924 new units, which is \$173 million, quite frankly, that we have invested in housing.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to invest 344 million more in the next five years and that will create approximately 12,600 new units within our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have put millions of more dollars into housing than the previous government ever considered. We have worked with northern communities, we've worked with large communities, small communities right across our entire province to help individuals with home ownership and with low rentals.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — The minister says that the lack of fairness in the amount people were paying for their homes is the reason for killing this program. That makes no sense, Mr. Speaker. If the government really thought that it was unfair, it could have changed the policy to make the program work better for all people.

To the minister: if fairness was your main concern, why did you not change the policy of the rental purchase option program instead of tossing it completely out?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take notice of the question.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, another important housing program for the North has been the residential rehabilitation assistance program which helped homeowners improve the condition of their homes. The minister said in committee recently that major changes were coming to this program. The Saskatchewan home repair program was announced last week as one of those major changes. There was nothing in that announcement to deal with unique issues of northern Saskatchewan.

To the minister: why is the government ignoring the housing issues of northern Saskatchewan with this new, home repair program?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the minister, I take notice of the question.

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

### Support for Children in Care

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Ottawa changed the children's special allowances funding, the Minister of Social Services said some families are actually better off, but she has no idea how many families are what she would describe as better off. What we do know is that there are currently 2,500 children in the care of persons of sufficient interest or PSIs. These people are often grandmothers or other extended family members. We also know that many of our offices continue to get calls from these families, and they are not better off. In fact they are receiving less money than they did before the changes took place.

To the minister: why won't she take a serious look at how her government's administration of this program is failing the very people it's meant to support?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the minister, I take notice of the question.

[14:15]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister said she has a solution for everyone who is worse off. They should call their social workers, their MLAs, or the Children's Advocate so they can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This seems a rather complicated and stressful way to fix a problem of the government's own creation.

Many of these families will either choose to struggle by living without the money or they will give up the children they are trying to help because they don't have the resources to properly support them. There are many people who are negatively impacted by this change, and the minister is making them come to her again on a case-by-case basis.

To the minister: why won't you use common sense and simply fix the program so everyone, absolutely everyone, is assured of receiving all the money the province is getting from the federal government for these children?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a federal program, and I do not have the details on the federal program that was cut, so I take notice of the question.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister has now said they plan to grandfather in the current PSIs and ensure these families get the money they received under the old system. But what about the new PSIs? Well the minister has said there are new rates in place for dealing with new PSIs, but we are not confident on this side of the House that all of the federal funding for these families will necessarily flow to them.

Clearly the program is a mess, and this is not an issue that should be handled on a case-by-case basis. It affects up to 2,500 children, Mr. Speaker, which is an awful lot of case-by-case advocacy that takes a great deal of time before families get any resolve.

To the minister: instead of asking these families to come begging on a case-by-case basis, is she going to ensure that both current and new PSIs receive every penny the federal government is forwarding to the province for support of children in their care?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I take notice of the question.

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

#### Accommodation for Ministries

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in committee and in question period, the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration was unable to answer, unable to give a response to this Assembly why his ministry is prepared to pay \$1.2 million more for leasing a new posh office space in Regina. This, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the new office space is actually smaller than the existing location for 160 employees.

My question to the minister: how does he plead poverty to students, to universities, to regional colleges, to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] on the one hand, and then he can go around in the exact same moment, Mr. Speaker, and he's happy to spend \$1.2 million more on accommodations for offices?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

**Hon. Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Regina vacancy rate remains at under 2 per cent; 2 per cent makes it very tight. So because of that, we have decided to reduce our footprint for our office spaces. And that is a standard that we have brought forward of 200 square feet per FTE [full-time equivalent]. Because of that, Mr. Speaker, we are amalgamating spaces, creating open office spaces which in fact will be saving the government money in the long run, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is what a prudent government does. It looks at its resources and then figures out, how do we take and economize them. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it is not prudence to pay more for less space. That simply doesn't make sense.

My question, Mr. Speaker . . . well, not my question. We've heard two different stories coming out of ministers on the front bench, Mr. Speaker. The one night in estimates, the Minister of Advanced Ed said they were going to pay 21 per cent more for accommodation services for ministry staff for office space.

Fast forward a day, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health informed the Human Services Committee that for accommodation services for the Health ministry, with their many properties in Regina, was actually going to be a decrease of 18 per cent from \$5.035 million to \$4.148 million.

My question to the minister: how is it that we have these two different stories coming from the two ministers? How come the Health minister can find savings when it comes to accommodations, but the Minister of Advanced Ed is more than

happy to pay 21 per cent more?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

**Hon. Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the way Government Services provides accommodations is no different from when the members opposite were in government. The ministry officials work with the ministries to meet their accommodation needs throughout the whole province, but specifically here in Regina, where we have less than 2 per cent office space. So there's been no change to the manner of Government Services and how we charge the ministries for the space they occupy. The approach is now the same as the approach, like I said, that was used by the members opposite.

However, Mr. Speaker, we have reduced the number of square feet per FTE to 200. In the previous government, there was no thought that 350 was maybe too much. We have set a goal of reaching and working towards 200 square feet per FTE. With the amount of space we will save, Mr. Speaker, there is going to be more accommodations available to the public.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, there was no reply in that answer to address the issue of why there are two different, two very different stories coming from two ministers on the front bench. On the one situation, the Ministry of Advanced Education, we have the ministry leasing the exact same properties as last year with one exception — moving from the current spot in Grenfell into the Hill Tower III. The one difference, Mr. Speaker, is for half of the year, the ministry will be paying \$1.2 million more.

In Health, Mr. Speaker, we had the minister admit that the accommodation expenses within his budget were going down, down by an amount, Mr. Speaker, of 18 per cent, and Mr. Speaker, there were four locations recognized in Regina. My question to either minister: why, Mr. Speaker, the difference between the two amounts?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

**Hon. Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I'd like the members opposite to kind of visualize, we are amalgamating space. Ministry of Health has given back space. So consequently, they are spending less.

But also, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is amalgamating within ministries different spaces. We've met space standards of 200 square feet. The amount that we are going to be turning back in the city of Regina is equivalent to the size of city hall. Mr. Speaker, that is a substantial amount. That is over 100,000 square feet that we will be turning back to the commercial office space, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a good example of savings in that we are reducing our floor space. We are going to open-office concepts. Mr. Speaker, this is prudent government.

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011* — this is a bilingual Bill — without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be heard in committee? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011* and that the Bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed moving third reading.

## THIRD READINGS

### Bill No. 1 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011*. This is a bilingual Bill without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be referred to committee? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed with moving third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### **Bill No. 2 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011/Loi corrective (droit collaboratif) de 2011***

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

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

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be referred to committee? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill now be read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed moving third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### **Bill No. 3 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011***

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave of the Assembly to move a motion regarding CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] attendance.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion regarding CPA attendance. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

### MOTIONS

#### **Leave of Absence**

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that, by leave of the Assembly:

That leave of absence be granted to the member for Regina Coronation Park for Monday, May the 14th to Thursday, May the 17th inclusive to attend the 37th Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Americas Region in Kingston, Jamaica on behalf of this Assembly.

I so move.

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

That leave of absence be granted to the member of Coronation Park for Monday, May 14th to Thursday, May 17th inclusive to attend the 37th Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Americas Region in Kingston, Jamaica on behalf of this Assembly.

All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### 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 member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to speak, continue in the adjourned debates on this particular Bill, Bill No. 27, which is the Act to amend *The Education Act, 1995*. There's a number of changes proposed in this Act, Mr. Speaker, and we haven't had a lot of opportunity to speak to it yet, but we are glad to do so today.

And first of all, I guess just to go through it, there's a number of clauses that could be addressed and to explain to the people exactly what changes are being proposed. In this case we have some changes to the definitions in the Act, in particular the definition of academic year and school day. And those are being replaced and there's now . . . The definition is going to be moved down to the regulatory authority rather than being found in the Act.

[14:30]

Again, and I've commented on this on several occasions, the concern with moving meanings and definitions and all of the

other provisions that we've seen, where the authority to make those changes is being devolved down to the Executive Council, is of concern, Mr. Speaker. And it's something I think that the public needs to take note of and express their opinions on that because there's no opportunity for debate on those regulations. There's no opportunity for consultation with the public. They just are passed by order in council and that's the end of it. So as long as this government continues to devolve things down to the regulatory level, it is something of concern and we will be watching those regulations as they come through. But as I say, Mr. Speaker, those regulations are already in force before anyone gets a chance to look at them and comment on them.

There's some other changes in section 9 dealing with copyright licence agreements. And in this section what the government is doing is introducing new provisions to reflect new copyright laws and tariffs. And that's entirely appropriate, Mr. Speaker, and it's not a change that we have any concerns with.

Another section that's being amended is section 11, the technology supported revolving fund. And apparently, according to the explanation that we've been given is that this section is now being repealed because the fund is no longer used any more to support the provision of correspondence programs because boards of education are now funding these programs through their operating budget. So again it's another example of how funds have been devolved down to the school board level. And this was a recommendation from the Provincial Auditor because the fund really should formally be closed, as it has no assets. So in that way, Mr. Speaker, that's another good change to this Bill that reflects the current status and clears up some issues of administration.

There's two other sections that are being repealed: section 12, which is referring to the educational council and their responsibilities under section 14; and section 13, where the meetings of the council were to take place. And these are being repealed because the educational council apparently is outdated and hasn't operated for decades. So this is an appropriate change, Mr. Speaker, and it's one that we have no issue with. The explanatory notes indicate that there are other ongoing and ad hoc forums for discussing issues of common interest with stakeholders. And if this council hasn't operated in decades, then it makes sense to repeal those provisions of the Act.

Another provision, one provision, the next one that's being amended is section 60(1). And further, section 60(4) is repealed. So this is in relation to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, and it used to have a historical role of overseeing borrowing or payment of monies by the school board, but that's now the responsibility of the ministry. So the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, because they're no longer required to disestablish the school division because it is changing its historical role, then these clauses are amended accordingly.

The next area that's being changed is in section 85 of the Act. And that's regarding the duties and powers of the boards of education and the conseil scolaire. And in this case it's regarding the audit provisions. Section 85(1)(s) talks about how the books are to be audited, and the changes that are being proposed is that the person who does the audit is now required to hold a professional accounting designation. So that's a

modernization of that clause, Mr. Speaker, which we would have no issues with.

And section 86(1)(s) is a similar change in relation to the duties of the conseil scolaire with the francophone education areas, and again the person who does the audit is required to hold professional accounting designation. So that's an entirely appropriate amendment and one that was due. So we're okay with that change.

Further to that, we have section 87.7(2) which is also amended, and it's in relation to the new regulatory authorities that are being provided, and in this case the effective date of school closure or discontinuance of grades or years is going to be referred to in section 183 of the Act and the regulations. So it's amended accordingly.

In that case, Mr. Speaker, the amendment will read as follows: 87.7(1) which . . . The reference is in 87.7(2), I'm sorry, and it's just adding "and the regulations" after section 163 because the regulatory powers are being extended in relation to this clause.

Section 88(2) is amended in a similar fashion. Again this is in relation to the powers of le conseil scolaire and when they can close schools, and the effective date of the school closure. And that also is being amended to add "and the regulations" after the words, the section 163. So that's again another example of the devolution of authority to the regulatory sphere, which can be of concern. And again we'll have to ensure that we scrutinize the orders in council as they come through and any, I guess, added changes to regulations, Mr. Speaker, and without any opportunity for comment by the public or the opposition in this House.

So the next one that they are changing, in this long list of changes to the Act, is section 110 of *The Education Act*. And section 110(4) is repealed. And this is regarding production of documents. The entire section is repealed — it's a long section — and from this point forward, they're not required, boards of education are no longer required to send copies of their audited financial statements to the municipality, but the municipality can request a copy if they wish.

And there's a broadened definition of notice, of how sending can be done, and it's in addition to mail. It can be done in other manners. So it's just a wider definition of how they can forward those copies. So in this case, the new wording says, "If requested by a municipality." So it's only if a municipality requests it. They're no longer required to do that.

In section, the next amendment is an amendment to the French version of the Act. Section 134.2(2) of the French version is amended by striking out the word "réglementaire." But there was no explanation provided for that one.

Now section 163 is a significant change, and one that requires some discussion, Mr. Speaker. And the previous section was quite extensive, and in the previous section they talked about two terms of school ending on December 31st and June 30th and then two semesters ending on January 1st and June 30th, or ending on December 31st and June 30th and any other period that they think was necessary.

This has been changed just to say that a school year consists of 200 school days, and it doesn't give any indication as to the terms any more. And they have a definition now for instructional day which is a new definition that: ". . . means a day within a school year on which instruction is given to pupils or on which examinations or other educational activities involving pupils are conducted." So that's a fairly big change to that.

The school year continues to consist of 200 school days, but it allows in any year for the minister to determine for that year: ". . . any lesser number of school days that the minister considers advisable." And that section is basically unchanged although there is a small wording change to that.

In the previous Bill, it was up to the boards of council or le conseil scolaire to determine the opening and closing dates of schools. In this case, the power to determine the opening and closing dates of schools has been delegated to the regulatory sphere.

So we don't know for sure what those regulations are going to look like until after they're passed, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly won't have any comment, nor will the public have any comment on the opening and closing date of schools, the school hours of operation — although the boards will still be able to do it, they are subject to the regulations — and the schedule of operation for a school year and for any term. So those three things are still within the realm of the board of education and conseil scolaire but is subject now to the regulations, and that's the regulations regarding the terms and the periods that the ministry or the government considers advisable to reduce the number of days on.

There was a requirement in the previous section to notify employees and boards of trustees and publish information for parents and pupils with respect to the matters of the opening and closing dates of the school. That's no longer there. There's no requirement any more for them to notify the people, which is unfortunate. And this is the big change that we've heard lots about from various school groups and school boards. And it's really sort of shaken their world, Mr. Speaker, because there's a mandatory requirement now for the first instructional day in a school year is the first day following Labour Day.

And we know that this was something that was advocated for in the business world, Mr. Speaker, but it is not something that is of interest to a lot of other people, and particularly the schools and the children in the schools. This type of change is to support people who are able to get away in the summer and perhaps enjoy the luxury of being at a lake or in a cabin, which is not a lot of people in the province, Mr. Speaker. In fact that's a limited number of people that have those privileges.

And certainly I think for a lot of the children who are looking forward to school starting, the idea of sitting home for an extra three or four days before the long weekend in September is of absolutely no benefit to them whatsoever. They've had a long summer break and they're ready to get back at school. And it should be up to the individual communities to make that determination, and certainly not something that should be dictated to them by the ministry and by business needs and business interests.

In fact I know a number of school boards are now struggling with eliminating the February break. This is something that is disrupting families planning for their activities that they pursue. And it's certainly something that I know my children certainly look forward to in February, is that little break just to get through the winter, and school boards simply don't have room any more for that kind of break. So as far as I'm concerned, section 163(5) — which indicates that boards of education no longer have any discretion in terms of when the first instructional day is going to be held, it must be the first day following Labour Day — this is arbitrary and it is dictatorial. And it's telling schools what they should be doing when often we hear from our Minister of Education how much she defers to the school boards and how hands-off she likes to be in terms of them determining their own affairs.

So this is somewhat inconsistent with what we're hearing from our minister. And it's an example of this government listening more to the needs of business than to that of educators or school children or parents. And I think that's really unfortunate. So that's really the biggest change in this whole Bill.

There are a number of other changes though that are indicated, and just to carry on on a few more of them, Mr. Speaker, we're looking at a modification of l'article 110 et maintenant. Section 110(4) is now being modified. I'm just going to find the section here. Oh sorry. That's one I've already spoken to in the English version, so I don't need to refer to it in the French version.

We're now moving into the section regarding teacher education certification and the classification board. And there's seven sections that are being repealed there; sections 270 to 276 are being repealed. Fairly extensive description of the teacher classification board. And what's happening here, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the explanatory notes that we've been provided — just let me get to that — in fact there are no explanatory notes provided in the notes to the Bill. So just looking at it briefly, we can see that the board now is being defined as Teacher Education, Certification and Classification Board. And previously it was just the teacher classification board.

So the changes here are in respect to the certification and classification of teachers and their education as well. So there's a number of changes being made. Most of them appear to be administrative in nature, and perhaps the big change is the classification board under 271(1) now can make recommendations to the minister with respect to defining and classifying teacher qualifications for inclusion in the regulations. So here's one case where the minister will be consulting with teachers and through the board. And there are a number of other things that the board must do under the old section.

[14:45]

In 272, there was a list of people that used to be on the board, and now that list is no longer there. It's up to Lieutenant Governor in Council to make the decisions about the terms of the members of the board and their remuneration, and the board members are now going to be appointed in accordance with regulations.

So there again, we have a change from actually naming who

will be on the board in the Act to moving that naming of those members to the regulatory sphere. And again, something of concern, but we will be keeping note of those regulations as they are passed and making comment at that time.

273 now gives out a list of the powers of the board. And in this case, the board can arrange for studies or investigations of problems related to education and training of teachers and arrange for consultants to assist it in studies considered necessary to perform its duties, submit proposals to the universities with respect to staffing of the colleges of education of the universities, and propose or recommend to the minister policies considered to be desirable to improve or expedite administration of the regulations governing teachers' certificates of qualification.

So in the previous section, the responsibilities of the board were quite detailed and there was several of them there, and so were the powers of the board. And now we see them basically being shortened up and referred to the regulatory sphere. And finally there's a new selection on an appeals committee which didn't exist in the previous Bill in as much detail.

And then section 277 is a new section. The previous one is repealed and the new one talks about the fiscal year again. And in this case, the fiscal year is September 1 to August 31. And in the previous Act, there were a number of different iterations of the fiscal year, but it seems to be something that has now moved through a period of change and is now fixed upon September 1st to August 31st for school years. And it also just updates the fiscal year for the boards of education and the conseil scolaire.

There's a new section 283, and that is in relation to previous financial statements. The explanation here is that the previous financial statements section is being repealed and substituted with new wording and the boards of education and conseil scolaire will arrange for their board approval of their annual report in advance of the submission to the ministry. So this will be following *The Tabling Of Documents Act* and so there's some timing issues there that are now being corrected. So that's a change that's being made to section 283; 288.

There's some changes in terms of the other sections that are relevant to this Act which is *The Municipalities Act*, and the explanation that's provided here is that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has a responsibility of determining mill rates for each taxation year. So this section is repealed and substituted with new wording that clarifies the authority for different mill rates to be set for properties within the city of Lloydminster. So this is in relation to one particular city and the authority for mill rates in that particular city.

Section 289 is also amended, and it's adding after the word minister the phrase "or the minister responsible for the administration of *The Municipalities Act*." And 289(1) is in relation to the notice of tax rates. So it's just to provide for communications out to municipalities and school divisions regarding the provincial education property tax to be handled by Municipal Affairs as per the delegation of responsibilities between ministries. So that's the clarification in responsibilities.

We have levy of taxes, section 290. There's a substitute for



290(3) and again, it's just repealed and substituted with new wording to indicate mill rates are no longer set by boards of education although separate school boards may be exempt from that. There's changes to the provisions regarding operating grants to boards of education and this is section 310 and 311. Those sections have been repealed and there are new sections that have been proposed and the new wording references that terms and conditions may be placed on the operating grant paid to school boards. So there will be strings attached now to these operating grants. And the grants are paid to boards of education and not school divisions, which is a geographic area the board of education oversees, so that there's clarity around that language. And the reference is also made to broader terms such as sites or facilities rather than just schools, so there's further clarification in that section.

Section 315(1), it's a very small change to that. Strike out the word "prescribe" and substitute the word "direct", and I think that's an appropriate change just to make it in line. Section 319, loans for current expenditures is repealed and there's a new version of it, 319(1). And what it refers to, as the case may be, is that boards of education and the conseil scolaire must seek the approval of the minister before borrowing funds for its current expenditures, for example, its line of credit.

So they need the minister's consent to do that, and I believe in sub (2) previously they were also required to have the consent of the minister. It's repealed because it doesn't apply under their new funding distribution model. And operational borrowing requirements are unrelated to the amount of accounts receivable held by the board, so subsection (3) is no longer required, which required notification of the minister and Minister of Finance. So the minister can also notify the Minister of Finance, if needed, in that context.

There's some changes to subsection 321. Sub (3) has been repealed, and sub (4) is amended by striking out "and the bylaw." And the reasoning provided here for that change is that a board of education and the conseil scolaire may still borrow for capital expenditures. The minister's consent is still required. The board will still be required to pass a resolution to borrow but will no longer need to pass a bylaw. So that's the main change there.

Section 323(3) is also being amended, and in that case it's regarding resolution setting forth intent to borrow. This section has been much modified and reduced, and basically the explanation there is that borrowing for capital will no longer require the involvement of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. Again this looks like the Municipal Board is no longer as involved in public school board and French schools' loan or financial management.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Board had a traditional role that included ensuring that the debt was manageable, the term and cost of financing were appropriate, and local electors were informed. I guess in this case, seeing that school boards are now capable of making those determinations on their own and they don't need the oversight of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to make those types of decisions, the section still provides for school division residents to be informed of the resolution to borrow funds. And electors will still also be able to view the resolution in board minutes, which are publicly available. So

the public will still be notified of these intentions to borrow, and the only change here is that the Municipal Board is no longer required to provide an oversight for those types of decisions on the part of school boards.

Section 324 is completely repealed because again they no longer need to apply to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board for loans. So it seems that that should be appropriate, Mr. Speaker, because school boards should have the capacity to make those types of determinations. However, borrowing still requires approval of the minister. And despite I've heard the minister say in public on several occasions that she defers to the boards, but in this case she still has to approve borrowing. So I'm not sure about the consistency of her approach, but there you have it.

Section 325(1) used to be an application to the minister by a French le conseil scolaire, and the changes that are being proposed here is new wording. The Conseil des écoles francsaskoises and boards of education are still required to apply to the minister for loans and submit the resolution to the minister. So it's a fairly . . . The section is now somewhat lengthier, but it details the procedures that are required for getting ministerial approval. These changes are all, of course, in French as well.

And we now have a number of sections that are repealed. Section 326 is repealed, and again this is in relation to the Municipal Board which no longer has a role. The same goes for sections 328, 330, 331 to 335, 336 to 341, and 342 — they're all repealed, and the explanation is mostly in relation to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board and their previous requirement to approve. So those are now all removed because there's no more need for that.

School boards are also given a bit more lenience in some of these other clauses that are being repealed. There's no requirement for a bylaw to be passed any more, and they don't need to use debentures as a means of borrowing any more. So the school boards are given a lot more flexibility here on the ways that they approach borrowing money. They don't need sinking funds any more. They will no longer issue debentures. And so a lot of these things are just moving that forward into a more modern approach to borrowing. It's difficult when they have to borrow money, but that's another story for another day.

Section 347 . . . Sorry, I want to go back to section 344. This is an amended section and this is regarding acquiring property. And there's some changes made. After 344(3) there's two more subsections added. These new subsections are added that will consolidate provisions regarding the acquisition of property. And what it does is it's requirements under the New West Partnership Agreement that say that any procurement over \$75,000 has to go to tender for purchases of services and goods, and any procurement over \$100,000 for construction is required to follow the rules under the New West Partnership Agreement, which means that there would be no preferential treatment for local companies or Saskatchewan-based companies and that anyone who underbids them, despite any sort of need to promote business in Saskatchewan, will be the favoured contractor.

So we may see a lot of outside, extraprovincial contracts now

going out for construction. Most construction bids are going to be over \$100,000. That's not a lot of money, Mr. Speaker, so I would expect that most construction bids are now being opened up across Canada and certainly that will affect smaller businesses and locally grown businesses that are just starting up here in the province. So it'll be really difficult for new companies in Saskatchewan to get those contracts because they won't have the capacity to underbid more established and larger companies, Mr. Speaker. So that's a bit unfortunate that these things are caught by the New West Partnership Agreement. But we're in it now and I guess that's the way everybody has to follow the rules of the New West Partnership Agreement.

Three forty-seven, so it's also been changed. This is a section relating to the disposal of real and personal property. Again a fairly lengthy section originally but now the amendment is going to change that section. And what it will do is it also brings it into consistency with the New West Partnership Agreement. So this is where the amount at which they go to tender or auction for the sale of property. So it's the converse. When they're disposing of property, the same rules apply and what they're saying is that the amounts that exist right now are quite low. So they're going to allow regulations to reflect current and future trade agreements, and I suppose then this will give them the ability to make sure that this Act is consistent with the New West Partnership Agreement. So again we're stuck with it and these Acts have to be brought into line with that agreement; otherwise we will be in violation of the agreement and we would be called upon that by the other partners.

Section 349 has been repealed. It's just regarding tenders for acquisition of vehicles and the explanation is that it's covered off in a new subsection 444(5). So that's already been covered off. We have locations of schools and teacher residences. Section 350 is also being repealed and substituted with new sections. Actually 350 and 351 are repealed and the explanations there are that the wording of school site has been changed to site and construction plans apply to all buildings, so they're not just limited to schools. So it's the broader definition of the site and the broader definition of building rather than school building. So that seems appropriate, Mr. Speaker, to make that clarity in the Act.

[15:00]

Section 352 is the section regarding tenders; it's repealed. And the explanation is that it's now covered by the previous section I referred to where the amount is going to be set in regulations — again here we go to the regulatory sphere — in accordance with the New West Partnership Agreement. So we're caught by the New West Partnership Agreement, and also we don't know what those terms are going to be until after the regulations have been passed.

Section 353 is repealed, with a new section which expands the requirements for building plans to encompass all buildings rather than just schools. So it's consistent language. Section 354 is repealed. There's a new section being provided there and it's broadened to refer to transportation in general rather than just pupils and others such as parents or volunteers. So it's a more broadened definition of transportation.

Section 355 is amended and it's taking out an amount of \$50,000 and moving it to tendering amounts to be now set in the regulations. So we don't know what that amount's going to be until we see the regulations.

And finally section 370 is changed, and that is the ability to make regulations. In this case there are a number of new things that are being moved into the regulatory abilities of the Lieutenant Governor in Council including provisions concerning instructional time, school hours, days, vacation, holiday days, alternative school hours and days. They're now going to be addressed in the regulations, which is a very significant change to the Act, Mr. Speaker, and it's of concern that these types of decisions are going to be made without consultation by the public and certainly without scrutiny in this Chamber. And those are something that the public should be concerned about.

So at this point I think, Mr. Speaker, that's the extent of the comments that I want to make on Bill No. 27, *An Act to amend The Education Act, 1995*. And so I would like to move to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate. 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 member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This Bill is a consequential amendment Act that accompanies the enactment of *The Education Amendment Act* that I just spoke to. And at this point, Mr. Speaker, there are not a lot of comments I have on this particular Bill. These are just consequential to the previous Bill which I spoke to at length, and I know that my colleague, the critic, will want to speak to both of these Bills as well. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on this Bill as well.

**The Speaker:** — The member 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. 42

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 42** — *The*

*Graduate Retention Program Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm all good to go on Bill No. 42, *The Graduate Retention Program Amendment Act, 2012*. I think it's obviously a very good program and one that we had brought in when we were in government. This government tweaked it a bit in . . . four years ago, and then they're bringing forward some further tweaks which I think deserve some examination. And I know when we get into committee that we will have those questions.

But I do want to say that anything that we can do, we should always look carefully at, in terms of retaining a well-educated workforce here in Saskatchewan. We're very proud when we see that the population is growing but, you know, it's all sorts of people who make up our province. And we like to see the babies being born. That's one way, you know, and people living longer. But we also like to see our graduates stay here in the province because that's how our economy develops. And whether it's entrepreneurs or the human services or in health care or in the arts, I think it's very important that we have a program to say, we've invested in you and we want you to stay here and we're going to help you stay here by investing a little bit more.

And so this graduate tax . . . graduate retention program is a very interesting program. And it's interesting to read the minister's speech where he's talked about how they're changing it so it more accurately reflects the manner in which the program benefit is currently utilized because some people actually make enough money that they're paying taxes right after they graduate from their program. And when they graduate and they're paying taxes, they're actually seeing their payable tax amount being reduced. So that's one way. Or there's others who were seeing that it was just being paid back in terms of a tax refund. And so I think this is important to allow that ability because, you know, when people graduate from a program they come out in all sorts of different ways, whether they're lawyers or teachers or whether they're in the arts, where you're maybe not making as much money, or some high-end programs where you actually do come out making a fair wage and you will end up paying some taxes. So this reduces that.

So it talks about some of the tweaking here as well in terms of removing the requirement for the individual to have the social insurance number to appear on the graduate retention program paper certificate, that this is already done in different ways and that it's not necessary that that happens. And I can just relate to that too. I know forms that we deal with that sometimes ask for that and I'm thinking, you know, we should only ask for the information that is needed. We shouldn't be asking for more just because what happens, you know, it's the whole issue of privacy and I think it's some, a responsibility for all of us to only ask what is required. And then I think that's a good habit to get into, particularly around privacy issues. And so I'm glad to see that, and that this is going to be ready for the 2012 tax year.

It is unfortunate though that we see this coming out so late in the day as it were, you know, when the minister's speaking on

April 24th. I know this is obviously related to the budget and therefore couldn't . . . It has a shorter window than many of the other Bills but it does mean that we're kind of up against a wall in terms of asking those who might be impacted on this. I see that there has been some consultation in terms of some of the groups that the minister has consulted with, with ministries of Justice, Attorney General, Finance, provincial comptrollers, that type of thing. It would have been interesting though for us to have heard from past students, graduates who have actually made use of this and say, so how is it? I'm curious. I'm always curious. Are there strategies to find out how did it work for people who are using this? Was it easily handled? Were there challenges? Were there barriers? Were there some people who found it very difficult because of where they were working in the province? I can't, you know . . . I don't know if there was, but it's always something I think would be a good idea, that if we can find out those things, it would be a . . . It just helps.

And I know this government is taking a lot of pride in its lean processes, and sometimes we have questions about that. But if we could start out by having a very effective lean type of application process, that's very good too.

One of the questions I know I'll be asking is, you know, when you get to the explanation notes, they're always very interesting to read because they're a little more straightforward. I guess that's why they explain things. But I think that it's interesting that this program, I always thought it was a seven-year program. But now it says, "Claiming graduate tax rebate," and section 5(3), "The total amount of all graduate tuition rebates to which a qualified individual is entitled shall not exceed \$20,000 in the individual's lifetime." So I find that . . . I didn't realize that. I didn't know that it was all encompassing, that it was a lifetime commitment.

Now I don't know why that would be there. And when did the change come from the seven years? Maybe it was four years ago. I don't know. But I'd be curious to know why it's now the individual's lifetime because I know that the graduate tax refund, I mean people graduate from an undergraduate program, and they get a master's or they get a doctorate, seven years may be too short of a time. But I'm curious about why that is part of the legislation.

And then when I look over to the regulations, that some of these, where they're talking about what they may make in regulations, the Executive Council, essentially the cabinet, talking about "prescribing programs of post-secondary studies as eligible programs," so they get to set what the program is going to be. They don't have to come back, and that's not part of the legislation. Fair enough. I think that allows flexibility. That's a good thing. And sometimes there's programs that will fall off because people are just not using them, some that they want to see as promoting.

Another one, "prescribing criteria that the minister shall consider in recognizing a program or post-secondary studies as an eligible program." So there you are. You're saying that this program must meet certain criteria. That's a good idea.

Prescribing the period within which an application may be made and prescribing information to be provided by the

application. So that's interesting that a period within an application may be made, but it's talking about the lifetime of the applicant in the legislation. So I think that's an interesting connection.

And providing "additional information that may be set out in a tuition rebate eligibility certificate," again, that hopes to meet the privacy issue, and that'll be interesting to . . .

And the other one is of course prescribing tuition rebate maximums — how much is actually available; now it seems to be approximately \$20,000 — including different tuition rebate maximums for different eligible programs and for different years of graduation from an eligible program. So that makes sense because we know there's some professional programs that are very, very expensive. Of course the earnings are very different too, so I don't know. That will have to be taken into account. We don't see that discussion very much because it will be in regulations, and of course we will only see that after the fact. And so we do have concerns about that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't have many more questions. I know that we'll have questions in the committee about this. And I know that we will be welcome to see that go there. But as far as I'm concerned, I think that we will . . . I've spoken my piece about this Bill. And thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved adjourned debate. Is the Assembly ready for the question? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, I'm sorry. The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the member from Saskatoon Centre on Bill No. 42, *The Graduate Retention Program Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 42, *The Graduate Retention Program Amendment Act, 2012* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

[15:15]

### Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 43** — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate entering into a brief discussion of Bill No. 43, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2012*. We certainly have many more questions as it relates to the changes that have been put

forward in this piece of legislation. We have questions about how these decisions, how these changes have been derived, what's that consultation process looked like. We know some of these have stemmed directly from the provincial election in the fall, the part of the mandate I suppose that the government earned. So on those fronts, maybe it's reflective of following through on a couple commitments that were made.

What I'd have to say is that it's rare, in fact, that we see decisions and changes coming from this government recently that have any resemblance to the mandate that they earned in the fall. What we have seen is, in fact, sort of attention and priorities and focus of legislation of this government in many ways not resemble what was promised in the fall. A couple exceptions would exist in this piece of legislation. But certainly we've highlighted on the floor of this Assembly, and then we continue to hear all across this province, the significant discontent and disappointment as it relates to some of the disconnect from the promises in the fall and the actions of government as we move forward, particularly the expenditure of millions of dollars, Madam Speaker, on increasing the number of politicians in Saskatchewan, something that wasn't talked about at all in the fall campaign, certainly something that wasn't mentioned in the Throne Speech, but something that this government's pushing through.

Now specific to *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2012*, there are a few changes here that will require thoughtful consultation and consideration. Certainly there's an attempt to address one area that is important to Saskatchewan people. The concern from what we're hearing though is that the measures brought forward in themselves and as not part of a comprehensive plan fall significantly short. And in that area, I speak specifically to housing, an area that's certainly emerged as a pressure for households all across this province in young people and seniors, Madam Speaker, and something that certainly does require attention and focus of government.

We see a couple of tweaks in *The Income Tax Amendment Act* here, one that reduces the general corporate income tax rate for multi-unit residential projects for rental units. Now this in itself may be part of the solution, Madam Speaker, but certainly by itself, Madam Speaker, doesn't deliver meaningfully what we need to be aiming to provide to Saskatchewan people.

What I should say is that at this time here in Saskatchewan, that all across Saskatchewan, whether in Meadow Lake or in Humboldt or in Regina, there has been significant escalation in costs of rent. And certainly those increases to rent have far outpaced any increases to income for Saskatchewan people, and we have a significant disparity and inequity that's growing. When we look at wage increases that have been flat for many or for minimum wage earners that are frozen, for many others — civil servants and otherwise — that might see a per cent or two, what we know is that the doubling or the 100 per cent increases or more that we've seen with the cost of rent, certainly that's outpaced any earning ability and outstripped arguably quality of life, but not just outstripped and taken out of quality of life but also placed a burden on many young people, many families, many seniors across Saskatchewan but also outstripped the ability to save that down payment for that first home.

And I know this program here that's one of the tweaks that's

mentioned here is a first-time homebuyers' credit. And we certainly support finding solutions — effective solutions, broad-based solutions — to address the challenges and pressures of renters, pressures of affordability but also that of first-time homebuyers in finding that solution to being able to make that step into home ownership, make that dream a reality, if you will, Madam Speaker.

I'm not sure that this measure itself by way of a policy decision is going to be as meaningful and as impactful as it could be. I'm not sure that a tax credit that is in essence, in my understanding, provided to individuals that have been able to save those dollars and then providing them a credit, if that addresses broad-based accessibility to Saskatchewan people in a meaningful way. It seems that maybe this applies only to those that can already save that down payment. And I think if we look at the circumstances and pressures on young people and on families, it's actually that ability to save that down payment in an environment with the skyrocketing rental rates that we've seen that have outpaced certainly any increases in earning and really outstrip that ability to save that down payment.

I really feel that at the end if these are the only two pieces put forward — and that's all we see from this government at this point in time — then certainly this is no meaningful or effective solution to bringing forward changes that should be addressing something that's really important to Saskatchewan people. So alone these two measures may be part of a comprehensive solution, but just standing by themselves, certainly they don't make significant change. But we do look forward to further analyzing these changes, discussing possibilities that could strengthen a housing plan and actually do some meaningful work for Saskatchewan people.

I think that, you know, it's fair to say that if we spent less time in this Assembly — by way of actions of government pushing through this legislation that we see government pushing through to spend millions of dollars to increase the number of politicians — if less time was spent by government on pushing forward legislation like that and spending like that that's not wanted, not needed by Saskatchewan people, and put their attention and made their priority the best interests of Saskatchewan people, we'd be a lot better off. And certainly we'd be in a better position to address the challenges and pressures of housing for so many across this province.

So a couple of comments as it relates to the housing programs. Certainly we would argue that standing alone, as these two items, falls far short of being able to be an effective solution for Saskatchewan people, and certainly not a comprehensive package to address what's a significant challenge and something that we should be focusing on here in Saskatchewan.

A few other changes in this legislation pertain to the research and development tax credit. We're going to be analyzing this further and consulting with stakeholders impacted all across Saskatchewan and bringing forward good questions and debate to committee, possibly looking for ways to strengthen what's put forward here and working in a co-operative manner, if offered the opportunity, Madam Speaker. So that's something we'll continue to be analyzing.

And it would be the same sorts of considerations and

consultations as it relates to the graduate retention program — a program that certainly we're proud of, as a government, to have initiated and to have begun to address some of the challenges and pressures of post-secondary affordability and accessibility in this province. But again in that, as it relates to tuition and education and post-secondary education, what we do see in this province in a broader way is growing inaccessibility to those programs, increasing costs in a broad way. And I think we have to look at the changes that are put forward in that broader context and understand that when you have a government that's speaking with legislation making minor tweaks to the graduate retention program, we need to understand what those changes and impacts are, but we also have to call the government for its failure to move in a meaningful way to make sure that post-secondary education is attainable and affordable for Saskatchewan students, something that we'll continue to push towards.

And I know when we're talking about tax credits and income tax changes and rebates and all the different pieces that we see here, specifically the research and development tax credit, it's fair to say that it provides an opportunity to mention the disappointment that we see all across Saskatchewan — whether in Swift Current or whether in Moose Jaw or whether in Estevan or whether in Indian Head, whether in Saskatoon, and certainly in Regina, Madam Speaker — as it relates to the elimination of the film economy in Saskatchewan by way of eliminating the film tax credit and the lost opportunity that it represents, the lost investment, the driving away of investment in this province, the driving away of entrepreneurs from this province, the driving away of creative young workers paying income tax here in Saskatchewan, building their lives here in Saskatchewan, Madam Speaker.

And this represents a great disappointment and certainly is highlighted when we see some of the other tax changes that we do here today. And that's something we're hearing from all across this province. And to be frank, Madam Speaker, the voices of Saskatchewan people all across Saskatchewan haven't ceased on this front since budget. In fact I think they have emboldened and they're stronger. And there's a broader recognition across communities, not just in the film industry itself, but across communities about the disappointing cut that occurred and the hurt that's felt across Saskatchewan as a result of those changes to eliminate the film industry, Madam Speaker.

So as we move forward, we certainly have a lot more consultation that we'll be doing on this front. We'll be talking about, with key stakeholders impacted by the changes in this legislation. We look forward to the time with the minister in committee to clarify some of the programs, some of the changes, looking for opportunities to potentially strengthen legislation and programs that have been put forward, Madam Speaker. And that's our role and that's our opportunity of when it relates to housing and a couple of the tweaks that we see here. We're going to be looking at it in a broader sense about have we achieved the goal of trying to . . . the meaningful goal of making improvements for Saskatchewan young people and families.

From a disappointing perspective with just these two items, these two tweaks, I believe standing alone we're going to find

that they don't provide the meaningful response that Saskatchewan people deserve and require when we talk about taking what's a strong economy and then making sure that it's improving the lives of Saskatchewan people. And that should be our number one focus, Madam Speaker.

We'll be focusing on the end-user if we will, the everyday families that are the young people that are certainly in those rental circumstances and that are working so hard in their studies and that are working hard to save that down payment with the hope to be able to purchase that first home. And we'll make sure that we study the balance of how we're doing as a province and how this government is moving forward. But certainly it's fair to say that I have great concerns that the two measures that have been put forward will fall short in bringing that meaningful change that Saskatchewan people are desiring.

But at this point in time, we have a lot more consultation with stakeholders, as I say, that have been impacted with families and young people that are being impacted. We look forward to carrying that forward in an informed way to committee, looking for ways to strengthen legislation, looking for ways to advance the voice of so many across this province and make sure they're front and centre in the legislative changes and public policy discussions here in this province. And that's what we'll be looking to do.

At this point in time, we do look forward to discussions at the committee level. We do have good questions that we're going to be seeking answers from the minister. But at this point in time, we'll be moving this to committee, or supporting this being moved to committee and undergoing the important work on behalf of Saskatchewan people at that point in time. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member from Regina Rosemont on Bill No. 43, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Second reading.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 43, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2012* be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

### Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson that **Bill No. 37** — *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the debate today on Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act, An Act respecting Tourism Saskatchewan*.

I think one of the big things . . . Well what this Act will do, Madam Speaker, it will take Tourism Saskatchewan which is currently a sector-driven, membership-driven, arm's-length organization and pull it back under the control of the provincial government. So Tourism Saskatchewan will no longer be an arm's-length entity, but it will become a Treasury Board Crown. And as a New Democrat and a social democrat, generally speaking, obviously we think Crown corporations are a good thing. But one of the big things that stands out, there are definitely problems with this Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker.

[15:30]

I think one of the biggest problems that stands out is the process behind how this all transpired. Just a couple short months ago, Madam Speaker, this wasn't even on the radar. I think one of the things that really stands out is this government, this current government, tends to have a we-know-best policy or that seems to be their guiding principle, that it doesn't matter what the issue is. If the governing members think it's a good idea, it must be a good idea.

But you know what? I think that there are a whole bunch of people out there, more than a million people, more than a million people in Saskatchewan who are impacted by all kinds of policies and decisions that would not agree that a government's guiding principle should be we know best. Because the reality is, when you create, when you create public policy, Madam Deputy Speaker, the reality is you should be creating policy that's connected to people's realities, to the people who know, who are doing the work on the front lines, and know what's working and what's not working.

And in fact there was a tourism review actually a few years ago. And one of the recommendations actually on page 35, one of the key areas of agreement among all parties to this review is that Tourism Saskatchewan should remain an arm's-length body, which is quite the opposite of what is transpiring in this piece of legislation, where we're taking Tourism Saskatchewan and moving it from an arm's-length body and putting it under the control of the provincial government. So I think again a big problem with this government is its inability to consult with people who . . . or not just consult, but after the consultation process has finished, wrapped up, actually listen to what the consultation has or what folks have had to say.

One of the things . . . It's interesting that the rationale for this Bill . . . So this government has a guiding principle of we know best, but what they tend to do when it comes to legislation or policy is they, on one hand, pick and choose. If something suits this particular issue, they'll take this approach. And if something else doesn't quite suit . . . It might have been a survey, and they like the survey in this case if it backs up their guiding principle of we know best. But if the survey says contrary to what this government believes, then oh we don't believe in surveys; we'll throw that beside the wayside, Madam Deputy Speaker.

A good case in point actually is a piece of, another piece of

legislation amending *The Education Act* that is before this legislature right now. In *The Education Act* . . . It was actually based on a Tourism Saskatchewan, the amendment is based on a Tourism Saskatchewan recommendation where people in the industry wanted the school year to start after the September long weekend. And there was actually a fairly small sample size, Madam Deputy Speaker. About 300 people, I believe, responded to that survey. And so the government actually took that survey and thought it was a good thing and said, you know what, we're going to implement that.

The irony about that Bill was that they took the Tourism Saskatchewan piece of that and ignored the entire education sector, Madam Deputy Speaker, whereas in this case, they have another survey before them. Actually Tourism Saskatchewan surveyed its members. And more than twice the number of people responded to, or close to twice the number of people responded to this survey about Bill No. 37 moving Tourism Saskatchewan completely under the government. And about 70 per cent of those individuals thought it was a bad idea, actually.

So again we have a government who picks and chooses. We like a survey in this case, so we're going to say that surveys are great. But here's a survey that doesn't agree with our we-know-best policy, and we are going to ignore that survey.

So that's a big problem, Madam Deputy Speaker, when you're governing, that you believe that you know best and that your citizens and those who are working in various sectors don't have the answers — the CEO, the board of directors, the folks who are actually working in the industry. It's a huge problem if we ignore all those people who are doing that good work. And it's a huge problem too. Again this flies in the face of the review where the review actually recommended keeping Tourism Saskatchewan as an arm's-length board.

I think the other thing that's troublesome is, again this speaks to the government deciding that when something makes their case, they'll use it. In this case, we have the minister actually who, he says here, I'd like to quote:

And the review highlighted that this province is an anomaly in Canada. Mr. Speaker, we're taking best practice from across the country. It's well worth noting that every other jurisdiction in Canada has the tourism functions in either an agency of the Crown or delivers it directly through a ministry.

So in this case, Madam Deputy Speaker, the minister has decided to look all across Canada and make the argument, well you know what? This is what we should be doing.

But in the case of the film employment tax credit, Madam Deputy Speaker, every other province has a film employment tax credit. And this government has decided, well we know best. And we are going to pick the story that fits our narrative, and in this case, we don't want the film employment tax credit. For whatever reason, we don't think the film industry is worthy of incenting development. We don't like 70 per cent of the funding coming from out of province, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is what this government is saying. And they have chosen to use the arguments that, well every other jurisdiction is doing that and we don't want to be part of that game.

So on one hand, on one hand, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have a government who wants to talk about what other jurisdictions are doing and get in line and be lockstep with other provinces. But on a very important issue, this government is choosing to ignore what every other jurisdiction is doing, Madam Deputy Speaker. So I think that is a huge problem.

So when you have a government, when you have a government whose main or chief attitude is, we know best, that is hugely problematic, especially when it comes to consultation, especially when it comes to consultation, Madam Deputy Speaker. I know that the executive director of Tourism Saskatchewan, actually the CEO, didn't see this coming. This was completely out of nowhere. You would think if you wanted to be transparent, which is what actually the tourism review called for was transparency. And the minister responsible got up and said, we're very happy that we committed to the principles of the review which included transparency. Well you know what, Madam Deputy Speaker? The CEO of Tourism Saskatchewan had this to say: "We felt quite blindsided. We felt quite blindsided." So that doesn't sound like transparency. That does not sound like consultation. In fact it's quite the opposite.

So you know what, Madam Deputy Speaker? I think some of the big problems with this Bill and with this government in general is its desire to try to shape a narrative just to fit its we-know-best attitude, Madam Deputy Speaker, which is a problem when you're creating public policy that should be surveying people in Saskatchewan and trying to achieve the greatest good for all of us.

So with that I know that I do have colleagues who will plan on wading into the debate with Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act*, and I know when it gets to committee we'll have many more detailed questions about how the government could have possibly got to this point in time.

Oh, you know what? Actually I do have one more comment. In this Act, in part III, section no. 13, I just want to point out that right now this piece of legislation says the board is to consist of not more than 11 directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. I think a problem with that is the Bill doesn't stipulate who those 11 directors are, from which sectors or where they're going to come from. Are they going to be 11 cabinet ministers? Are they going to be 11 MLAs? Who are these people who are going to be sitting on this board, Madam Deputy Speaker?

And I think not laying this out creates a bit of a problem because it leaves a government open to people saying, well are you just going to try to get your own folks on this board? What is your agenda with respect to this Bill? So I would like to highlight that this Bill does not clearly illustrate from which sector and the folks who should be sitting on this council. So with that . . . Or on this Treasury Board Crown, pardon me, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So with that, as I said, I do have colleagues who would like to continue to speak to this Bill, and I know that we will ask many questions in committee. So with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — The member from

Saskatoon Riversdale has moved adjourn debate on Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act*. Is it the pleasure of the . . . is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Tell):** — This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:41.]





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