



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

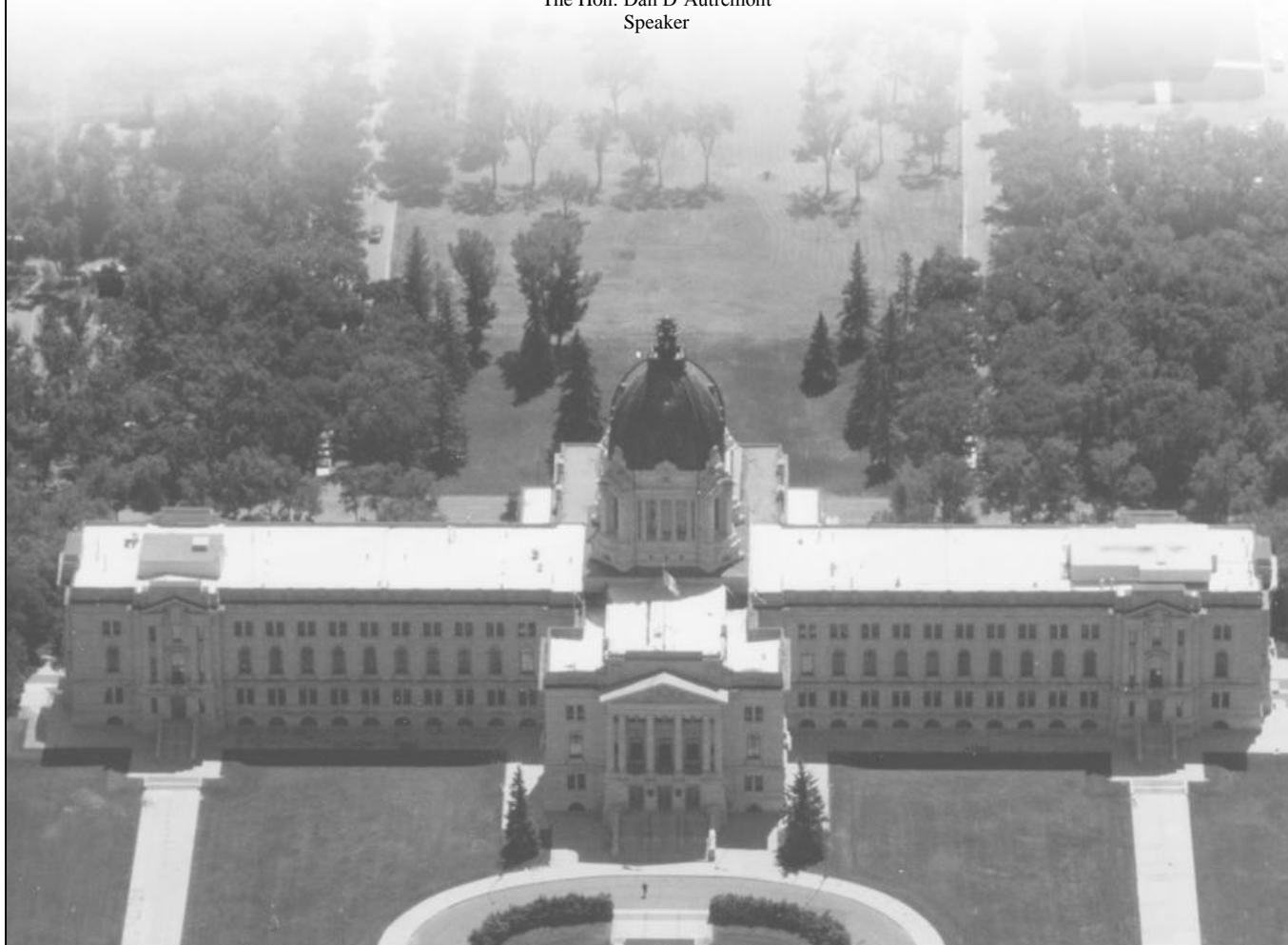
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
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Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
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Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
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McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
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Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
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Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. 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, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, two gentlemen seated in the west gallery. They are the mayor of Wolseley, His Worship Mr. Dennis Fjestad, and the town administrator, Mr. Ed Attridge, if they can just give us a wave up there. There they are. These gentlemen have joined us today in conjunction with the Main Street program in Wolseley, Mr. Speaker, which we will hear a little bit more about later in today's agenda.

Both Mayor Fjestad and Mr. Attridge have played a big part in the success of the Main Street program in Wolseley. Mayor Fjestad has lived in Wolseley for 14 years and is currently serving his second term as mayor. Besides serving as the chairman of Main Street Wolseley, he also sits on the board of directors for SaskCulture. In his role as Main Street coordinator, Mr. Attridge works with the community, government, and stakeholders to deliver the Main Street program. He also administers the cultural resource partnership through the SaskCulture program.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the Assembly to help me welcome these gentlemen to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce Lesa Giesbrecht. Lesa is a 13-year-old student who attends Venture Heights in Martensville. She's here today with her mom, Vicky. She's missing school today but for an educational experience. She took a tour of the Legislative Building this morning, and I got to meet with her and show her the Premier's office and the cabinet office, which is not usually on the tour.

And so I would ask all of my colleagues to welcome them here to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Greystone has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member for

Saskatoon Greystone.

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's a bit of a bittersweet introduction this afternoon to a remarkable son of Prince Albert and of the province, a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in physics and a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology joins us today, and that is in Dr. Richard Florizone. His experience went well beyond the academic realm. He has had senior portfolios with Bombardier and the Boston Consulting Group. He has served as well with Cambridge University where he helped with strategic planning for their College of Engineering, and he also helped out with their 800th anniversary fundraising campaign as a corporate liaison officer. He was recruited back to the University of Saskatchewan in 2005 where he has served with distinction as the vice-president for finance and resources.

And he's been involved with a number of initiatives that have contributed mightily to not just simply the University of Saskatchewan but to the province writ large, and that is the nuclear institute that now bears the name of Sylvia Fedoruk, our previous lieutenant-governor. He certainly has played a key role in the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. He's been involved with the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization and key areas of big science, not simply for the province but also for the country. And he also helped to shape key public-private partnerships in student housing, where today on that campus there are now more than 1,000 new suites for students — just to name a few of those activities.

He's also a policy fellow with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and I expect we'll hear from him through publications shortly on that. And at present, he's seconded to the World Bank's International Finance Corporation in Washington, DC [District of Columbia] where he's working on key policy questions regarding public-private partnerships.

In recognition of his accomplishments, character, and acumen, and the fact that he's a fine gentleman and a really great scholar and a true friend to so many, he's just been named the 11th president of Dalhousie University. Mr. Speaker, I will ask all members of this Assembly to join me in wishing Dr. Richard Florizone and his wife Mona, an accomplished art history professor in her own right, and their daughters all the best as they settle into the Dalhousie community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister and members of government in welcoming Mr. Florizone to the Assembly but more importantly in congratulating him for being named the next president of Dalhousie. It's a huge accomplishment.

And based on his track record here in the province, we know that Richard is someone who has always advocated strongly for the University of Saskatchewan and for the province as a whole.

So while it is a posting, it could be for a few years, we know that the Florizone family is very accomplished but also have deep roots in the province. So I'm hopeful that it's not the last that we will see of Richard Florizone here in Saskatchewan. So I wish he and Mona and their children all the best as they make the move, and good luck. Thanks.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce the Legislative Assembly to my beautiful wife Leane sitting in your gallery. Leane keeps the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thank you. Leane keeps the kids busy at home and certainly throughout my career and starting back campaigning has been the rock at home. Like a lot of my colleagues here, it is very difficult to be away from home but, Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate everything that she's done.

She is a small business owner. She was a teacher for nine years in Saskatchewan, cashed in her teaching pension and started a business. And as my friend from Cut Knife-Turtleford said, she is a survivor, Mr. Speaker. She is a survivor, and she is flourishing with the best year ever in her business. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to present a petition today on cellphone coverage for northwestern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure SaskTel delivers cell service to the Canoe Lake First Nation, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nation, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation and the community of Turnor Lake, including the neighbouring communities in each of those areas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition are from Green Lake. They're from Patuanak. They're from Turnor Lake. They're from Dillon. And this particular petition I'm presenting today are people that have signed from Jans Bay, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents 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, 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 from Saskatoon. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remembering Jim Sinclair

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remember the life of a very important individual in Saskatchewan's history, Jim Sinclair, who died on Friday at the age of 79 years.

Sinclair was born in 1933 in Punnichy, Saskatchewan. In 1964 he began work as a field worker for the Métis Society of Saskatchewan and was elected to the board in 1967. He later became president in 1971 and continued in that role for 18 years. He went on to become a founding member of the Métis National Council and was president of the Native Council of Canada, now known as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, from 1994 to 1996. In 1982 Jim led the effort to ensuring Métis people were recognized along with the First Nations and Inuit people in the constitution. He also fought for Métis treaty rights and overall human rights internationally.

Jim played a key role in creating many organizations that are well-known in Saskatchewan today such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Native Economic Development Corporation, Saskatchewan Native Addictions Centre, the Urban Native Housing Corporations, the Provincial Métis Housing Corporation, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. He received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, and the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] recently honoured him for 50 years of service to the community.

Mr. Sinclair was an important person in our history, and we would like all members to remember him today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Main Street Wolseley

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday I was pleased to attend the town hall meeting and have a guided tour of the Main Street Wolseley target area. Last year our government initiated the Main Street Saskatchewan program with the three-year, \$1.65 million investment to revitalize historic downtown commercial districts. And, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say the program has been a resounding success.

In its first year, the Main Street program has generated \$1.66 million in local commitments for capital infrastructure projects, a 10 to 1 return on the government's investment. In addition local citizens have contributed more than 5,450 volunteer hours, the equivalent of 681 eight-hour work days.

As you recall, Mr. Speaker, earlier in today's proceedings, Wolseley Mayor Dennis Fjestad and Main Street Wolseley coordinator Ed Attridge were introduced in the legislature. Due to their outstanding contributions and the tireless work of numerous other volunteers, I am pleased to say that Wolseley has generated a total investment of over \$1.1 million in capital projects. The Main Street program has been instrumental in the economic revitalization of Wolseley. It has also helped develop a renewed sense of community pride.

I know the community is extremely proud, as they should be, for what they have accomplished in the first year. And like the rest of the province, Wolseley is very excited about its future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HayEast 2012

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to commend the tremendous organization and work that has gone into the HayEast 2012 program here in Western Canada. This program originated in response to the Hay West program that was introduced in 2002. Ten years ago, growers in Eastern Canada shipped more than 110,000 tons of hay to farmers in Saskatchewan and Alberta when our regions were devastated by drought.

This year Eastern Canada faced the same difficulties and now the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, or APAS, is helping to repay their kindness by organizing Hay East 2012. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture estimates that livestock producers will require 70,000 large hay bales, and it is hoped that the Hay East program will provide approximately 50,000 of the needed hay bales.

But, Mr. Speaker, the program is having a tough time meeting the goal. These days excess hay doesn't stay in the province as there's a bigger market south of the border. Also energy costs have risen substantially over the past decade and therefore truckers are not able to donate their services in bringing the hay out east. Even bringing the hay by train means paying double the cost of what it did in 2002. There are more ways to support HayEast than just hay bales. They're also looking for cash donations and volunteers. I would like to commend Agrium for their substantial donation of \$20,000 and all other contributors for their donations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Nial Kuyek and Norm Hall from the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan for their leadership in promoting Saskatchewan's generous spirit to help farmers in need.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina

Qu'Appelle Valley.

Premier's Award for Excellence

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we honour a number of dedicated public service employees who have shown great commitment to the people of this province. Thirty-seven public service employees will be recognized with the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service. The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service recognizes and celebrates the achievement of outstanding employees in Saskatchewan. These employees provide exceptional service to the people of the province, develop innovative ideas, and demonstrate extraordinary leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service recipients are Dr. Moira McKinnon, for providing leadership during the H1N1 pandemic planning; the Ministry of Health's blood product inventory lean team for their outstanding efforts to streamline and improve the provisions of blood products to our health care facilities; the Ministry of Economy's Ireland labour recruitment mission team; the Ministry of Environment's results-based regulation code secretariat team for enhancing the protection of our province's environmental resources; the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Government Relations Wollaston Lake housing project team for their efforts to provide 14 families in Wollaston Lake with quality places to call home; and lastly, the Minister of Central Services youth advisory team for their leadership in developing a mentoring program to help employees learn how to best do their jobs. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Harvest for Kids Sets World Record

Mr. Phillips: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise in the House today to recognize a world record set by Harvest for Kids in Saskatchewan.

On October 6th, farmers from throughout Saskatchewan reclaimed the world record for the most combines harvesting a single field at the same time. Mr. Speaker, 249 combines rolled down a 200-acre oat field 25 kilometres north of Saskatoon in front of thousands of spectators. The 249 combines bested the previous world record of 208 set in Ireland last year, last July.

This marks the fourth time that the record has been passed between Irish and Canadian farmers. In Winkler, Manitoba in 2010, 200 combines took to one field and in Ireland in 2009, 175 combines were recorded in one field.

Mr. Speaker, Harvest for Kids raises money for Children's Camps International by taking the proceeds of a crop which is produced with donations of land, machinery, inputs, and by work of the sponsors. Children's Camps International is a non-profit organization that supports children's camping programs in the developing world.

Wendell Andres, the regional director of Children's Camps International in Saskatchewan, said since the program started in

2003, it has helped more than 900,000 children go to camp. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in saluting all those who made this world record a possibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Saskatchewan Author Wins Writer's Trust Prize

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure today to recognize an outstanding achievement by a proud Saskatchewan citizen. Candace Savage, now of Eastend, Saskatchewan, has won the \$60,000 Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize for Nonfiction, for her book investigating the natural and anthropological history of the Cypress Hills entitled *A Geography of Blood: Unearthing Memory from a Prairie Landscape*.

Mr. Speaker, Candace's book was chosen by a jury including former Ontario Lieutenant Governor James Bartlemen, and writers Charlotte Gill and Marni Jackson. Mr. Speaker, Candace Savage moved to Eastend in 2000 and spent a decade researching the history of the area and what happened to its indigenous peoples. The Weston Prize jury said of the book, and I quote:

A two-week vacation evolves into a decade-long fascination with the region and the writing of *A Geography Of Blood*, a part memoir, part history, part geological survey, part lament, part condemnation of the accepted myth of the settlement of the Western Plains, and above all, a haunting meditation on time and place.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Savage's 29th book prevailed over four other titles for the prize and purse that is larger than any of the other fiction prizes available in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Candace Savage on this outstanding achievement.

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

Improvements to Affordable Housing

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House to recognize the joint investment between the Government of Canada and the province that is helping to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income Saskatchewan families, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, our government, in partnership with the Government of Canada through Canada's economic action plan, has invested an additional \$102.16 million to make much needed improvements to existing government funding housing in Saskatchewan. This direct investment in our province has resulted in improvements to 572 projects in 206 communities. Mr. Speaker, this is an initiative that underlines our resolve to meet current and future affordable housing needs of Saskatchewan citizens. It has also helped to create employment opportunities and strengthen the economy.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes that some of Saskatchewan's existing affordable housing units are getting

older and require repairs and upgrades. This work can extend the life of a building that is essential to a community and help keep homes safe and affordable.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of rapid growth, it's more important than ever to work together to develop housing solutions that will benefit Saskatchewan citizens and revitalize communities. Our goal is to improve the quality of existing housing in Saskatchewan and, most importantly, benefit the people who live there now and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Registry of Asbestos in Public Buildings

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great sadness that I inform the House that Howard Willems passed away last Thursday. Shortly after I gave the second reading speech on Bill 604, the asbestos right-to-know Act, Howard lost his battle to cancer. I'd like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Howard's family and to his loved ones.

Up until the very end, Howard was pushing for the creation of an online registry of public buildings containing asbestos. It was his last wish that this Assembly pass this important piece of legislation, a mandatory and comprehensive listing of public buildings containing asbestos.

Before question period, Mr. Speaker, the government announced a step in the right direction with a voluntary registry. While this is progress, it doesn't fulfill the spirit of the right-to-know legislation. My question to the Health minister: I thank him for the positive steps that he's taken on this issue so far, but will he do the right thing and pass legislation, Mr. Speaker, that will make this registry comprehensive as well as mandatory? Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think on behalf of all members of the legislature and all citizens of the province, we would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Howard Willems. He's been a tireless advocate for this cause for some time. I met with him and the member from Silver Springs has met with him and I've heard him speak at a number of events.

We earlier today posted a website with the information of all Government of Saskatchewan buildings. We are contacting school boards, health regions, and other public entities to see what information they have available and that could be included. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is only one step of a variety of things that can and should be done to increase public awareness of asbestos, and we intend to take further steps through the winter, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the steps that the government have taken are positive. Increased education and the existence of this online registry is good, but it needs to be mandatory, Mr. Speaker, and it needs to be enshrined in legislation. We have the opportunity here, Mr. Speaker, to take some real action and do something other than simply extend our condolences to Howard's family and loved ones, the people that are so affected by this loss.

The legislation, Mr. Speaker, that we've been considering before the House would make a mandatory list of public buildings accessible to all of the public. It needs to be mandatory, not voluntarily. It needs to include buildings belonging to ministries, Crowns, regional health authorities, and school divisions. If it is not mandatory, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't meet the goal and the objective of Howard's work that the most information possible be relayed to Saskatchewan people so that they can make informed decisions. We can think of the incident, Mr. Speaker, at St. Mary's Villa in Humboldt. It was a voluntary registry. There is no guarantee that the residents there in that facility would have known that asbestos was present during the renovations.

My question to the minister: the government has softened its position on this and I do compliment them on the steps that they have taken, but there is more to do, Mr. Speaker. Will they support legislation that brings in a mandatory and comprehensive registry for public buildings with asbestos?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated in the House last week is the best assumption that all buildings constructed prior to 1980 or that had renovations prior to 1980, the presumptive approach should be that those buildings contain asbestos. To the extent that records are available or records are complete, that information is certainly provided and is certainly on the website.

Mr. Speaker, the concern that we raised last week was that if information was incomplete or inaccurate, you would have a situation where somebody may have a false sense of security. By mandating such a position — and we certainly don't want to rule out any particular obstacle by mandating something — you may have a situation where an entity would include all buildings because they're not certain or, worse yet, not include buildings that may have asbestos. We'd like to have the most complete, the most accurate information.

We will over the next few weeks have consultation and discussion with school boards, health regions, and other public entities, and we're prepared to allow the website to be used for private entities that may wish to have their information included. And we will do everything we can, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the public has this information, as well as other public information of other risks of asbestos.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the existence of the online registry now undercuts the argument that the minister just made

about why they can't put this in legislation and have a mandatory registry. If the concern, Mr. Speaker, is that individuals in the province do not have complete information, then what better approach than to have a mandatory registry where individuals know that public buildings with asbestos will be listed on there, Mr. Speaker? In the second reading speech that I delivered, Mr. Speaker, I think there are ways that we can get around the very rare occasion that there could be an error, Mr. Speaker. The good of providing the information outweighs the bad, the bad possibility that there could be an error there. And after all, we do operate on the assumption that asbestos is present.

Mr. Speaker, I've been contacted by Howard's family with one last request. Howard's family, Mr. Speaker, would like to see this Assembly pass this legislation, and they would like it to be renamed Howard's law. My question to the minister: will they enshrine this legislation, through this Assembly, and can it be renamed Howard's law?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we have offered our sympathies to the Willems family. We have a great deal of sympathy for them. And, Mr. Speaker, we want to do things that are positive and productive and actually increase the safety of Saskatchewan citizens. That includes public education. Later in the spring there will be an asbestos awareness day. There's groups that are organizing that type of thing. We may well want to move to have that renamed after Mr. Willems. There's a variety of other options that may be available.

Mr. Speaker, we think that Mr. Willems was a tireless advocate for this cause. He believed in public safety, and, Mr. Speaker, it's a legacy that he left behind and a legacy that all members of the House should want to continue. We want to do it by way of having best practices. We will continue to have the discussions with the various other entities. Mr. Speaker, we do not want to have a situation where the registry is wrong or relied on in error. And we've brought this forward, and we will deal with it as appropriately as is proper, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Tourism Saskatchewan

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Sask Party appointed a new CEO [chief executive officer] for Tourism Saskatchewan. In the spring, the Sask Party changed Tourism Saskatchewan from an arm's-length agency into a PR [public relations] spin shop for the Premier. The industry was always worried about this approach. The consensus in 2009 was clear: "One of the key areas of agreement among all parties to this review is Tourism Saskatchewan should remain an arm's-length organization from government."

Mr. Speaker, the new CEO said he wants to make Tourism Saskatchewan's brand consistent with the Premier's message. Why does the Sask Party believe it's acceptable to use public dollars to brand the tourism industry in the image of the Premier?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We view Tourism Saskatchewan as a great Crown corporation. We think that tourism is a big part of our growth strategy, that Saskatchewan has a substantial amount of opportunities to offer the world, to offer people here in Saskatchewan and from across Canada, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite referenced the legislation that was passed here in the House in the spring. It was proclaimed July 1st, Mr. Speaker, and now the new CEO has been installed as of Friday. We look forward to Tourism Saskatchewan moving forward to ensure that Saskatchewan has a consistent brand, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the people who want to access Saskatchewan for tourism know one . . . where they can go; the information can be consistent. And, Mr. Speaker, we want to see this agency move forward in a very positive and proactive way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, when the Sask Party government changed Tourism Saskatchewan from an agency to a Crown corporation in the spring, no one was consulted, including the former board and the former CEO. It came as a shock to the whole industry. Now the public is finding out the Sask Party plan is to brand Tourism Saskatchewan in the same image as the Premier.

The new Tourism Saskatchewan CEO says his first job is “creating a vision to match where the province wants to go.” Tourism Saskatchewan should not be taking the direction from the Premier’s office on how to market the province’s best features. Mr. Speaker, why won’t the Premier let Saskatchewan Tourism stand on its own two feet?

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

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the Act that was introduced in the spring, Mr. Speaker, built upon a tourism review that started in 2009. That tourism review spoke to having a consistent message coming from the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that there was one focal point for people that wanted to access services in regards to Tourism Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we have put forward the Act. It was proclaimed in July.

A new board of directors, Mr. Speaker, was brought in at the same time of the proclamation, July 1st. That board is a very strong group, Mr. Speaker, of business leaders, of continuity from former members that were on the previous board of Tourism Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And that group, Mr. Speaker, was first tasked with finding a CEO to move the process forward. They have done that. I’m very excited about the future of Tourism Saskatchewan and this industry inside our province. Today it’s \$1.7 billion worth of an industry, Mr. Speaker. It’s growing. It’s positive. And we’re looking forward to the future.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, this is why an arm’s-length agency was the right one for the province and also the model the industry wanted. The arm’s-length model would’ve prevented politics from interfering in marketing the province. That’s why the previous Chair, who was dismissed along with other board members by the Sask Party, said, “This blatant disregard for any input by thousands of business owners and operations that make up our industry is alarming.”

The last thing the public needed was another expensive PR machine promoting the Premier. Why does the Premier need Tourism Saskatchewan to market himself instead of our province?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the new board that was appointed July 1st, it included two members that were on the previous board of Tourism Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It has a Chair which is a business leader from Saskatoon. It has a great deal of experience in event hosting, in putting forward a product, Mr. Speaker, and a tourism venue. Mr. Speaker, it brings people from northern Saskatchewan and Elk Ridge, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, the new board, the new CEO are tasked with an aggressive approach. We recently put forward a growth plan, 2020 and beyond, vision Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And in there, there are some aggressive targets for growth. Tourism is one piece of that, Mr. Speaker, a big piece of it, and we’re looking forward to the Tourism Saskatchewan moving forward with a plan that has been laid out for them. The board is working very hard to ensure that tourism maintains its status, Mr. Speaker, as a substantial revenue generator for our province, as a place that people view our province as a very forward-looking, beautiful place that has tourism at the lead. Thank you.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Last week the Minister of Education admitted to the media that his government’s policies and responses to growth pressures were inadequate and not meeting the needs. One of the major issues is funding that lags population growth, leaving hundreds of students without funding, shortchanging boards, and impacting all students with cuts and pressures.

I’ve raised this issue for the better part of a year and, despite recognizing a problem, government has failed to act. School boards are meeting here today and they’re looking for some answers. To the minister: when will he act and provide funding for enrolment growth? Time is slipping away. Action and funds are required.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member

opposite for the question. The boards are actually meeting in Saskatoon today. However, Saskatchewan is a growing province. It's an exciting, dynamic place to be. Mr. Speaker, we've having record birth rates, population growth in our province, and we're not going to go back.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall the pressures of timetabling, the pressures of budgeting, the pressures of single options on a timetable — not even being able to field a football team because of declining enrolments, Mr. Speaker. Our province is growing. We've got those enrolment pressures. We've been working with our sector partners to mitigate those and, as we speak, we're going to continue to move in that direction. We celebrate the growth . . . [inaudible] . . . and we will deal with it. That's our promise. We've made that, and we'll continue in that direction.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the government is clearly failing to meet the demands of education in our province. The capital's but another example. The bricks and mortar of the schools and classrooms themselves are not keeping pace with population growth.

The minister admitted last week that his government was failing to keep pace, yet he didn't have a plan. He also revealed that P3s [public-private partnership], costly private infrastructure, were on the table. P3s have proven themselves short-sighted, risky, and costly approach to infrastructure, particularly in education. The public is on the hook for higher costs through paying profits to the private sector along with substantially higher borrowing costs. Honestly, how does the minister believe that a more costly private approach is the way to go instead of a common sense solution to build the schools this province needs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last spring we set out a plan. We've stuck to that plan. We've made promises to our sector partners to work with them to mitigate the pressures of growth, and we will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker. More work needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, we have increased operating funding to school divisions by over 21 per cent since we've taken office. Mr. Speaker, as the minister, I've committed to seeking a mid-year funding for school divisions who experience large enrolment growth, and we're working in that direction, Mr. Speaker.

We're committed to working with school divisions on addressing how we recognize increases going forward, both for the short term, Mr. Speaker, because we have some immediate pressures, and for the long term. And we will continue to do so. Our government has been consulting with education partners all along. We will continue to do so to mitigate the growth pressures.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Sorry, I'm not sure the minister heard the question. It was about P3s, Mr. Speaker. P3s simply are

attractive to governments who want projects now but aren't willing to pay for them. They in effect punt higher costs and risks down the line and they tie the hands of future governments, inevitably bringing about higher costs.

This new costly, private, no-money-down approach reflects a government with strained finances looking for any trick to try and manufacture a rosier-than-reality financial picture. Instead of financial tricks, we need support and a plan for education. Question to the minister: why is he willing to take us down a path that's fraught with unneeded risks and costs for the public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Half a billion dollars in infrastructure spending since we've taken office. Shared use facilities, Mr. Speaker, throughout our province since we've taken office. Mr. Speaker, we're not afraid to set targets — bold targets — both for enrolment and for capital infrastructure. We have some short-term issues that we need to deal with. P3s is a possibility. We're not afraid to look at any kind of options to mitigate the pressures that we have facing growth.

Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to step outside the box to solve problems in the short term, but we're also working with our sector partners to gain a long-term strategy that will ensure sustainability for education in this province for a long time to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're witnessing a government that is failing to have a real plan for education that responds to the growth in this province, and they're trying to maintain a financial story that's become anything but reality. As a result they're making reckless, short-sighted decisions that don't serve the best interests now and well into the future.

In this latest example of putting the public and students on the hook for costly, risky, private school buildings, they are in effect tying the hands of future populations in this province. When will this government start to serve the best interests of students and the public and provide a real plan with some common sense solutions to build schools and support education in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, I too take education very seriously, very seriously, Mr. Speaker, and I have done so for about 40-some years.

Mr. Speaker, our priority for education was very clearly articulated in the Throne Speech, very clearly articulated in the growth plan. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, our operating grants to school boards have increased by 21 per cent since we've taken office. Our capital is up \$500 million since we've taken office. Pre-K to 12 [pre-kindergarten to grade 12] investment is up 85 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Early childhood education is up 16 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue. There's no question in my mind that our government's priority is in

education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Immigration Issue

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has now been over two weeks since I asked the Immigration minister questions about the plight of Victoria Ordu and Ihouma Amadi. These two international students, Mr. Speaker, are facing deportation from Canada because they made an honest mistake. They were allowed to work on campus, Mr. Speaker, but mistakenly took a job at Walmart for two weeks. As a result, Mr. Speaker, the federal government is looking for these students and has ordered their deportation. They've been in hiding, receiving sanctuary in a local church, Mr. Speaker, for over 147 days.

Earlier on, Mr. Speaker, when I asked the minister questions, later in QP [question period] and in the scrum he later said that, based on his understanding, that the treatment that these women were receiving was not in fact fair. I agree, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it was an honest mistake. My question to the minister: does he still believe that the treatment of these two women is not fair?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, given the information that we have at this point, we have no reason to believe that our position needs to be changed. We are of the view, on the face of the situation, that there is nothing inappropriate here — a minor infraction in our view. And it's unfortunate, it's unfortunate that the federal government doesn't see it that way, however.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today on campus at the U of R [University of Regina], a rally was held over the lunch hour. And at the rally, students, administration, student leaders, and friends and those who simply see this as an injustice came together to draw attention to this and keep pressure on all levels of government to make a positive change here.

Earlier on when I asked questions, Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Immigration said that the Minister of Justice was going to be meeting with the federal minister to discuss this matter. I'm asking for the provincial Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, to provide a report to the Assembly. How did that meeting go? What was discussed? What was the duration? And what is the outcome? Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The week before last, we had the opportunity to entertain the federal Minister of Justice here in Saskatchewan, in Regina at the federal-provincial-territorial ministers meetings. We did raise the issue, both with the Minister of Justice and the minister in charge of Public Safety. We raised the issue with him. We told

him what our concerns were. He then turned . . . He had a press conference and let his position be known to the press at that particular time. But we certainly did make the position of the government known.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately when it comes to issues of immigration, the track record of the Sask Party government is putting the interests of its cousins in Ottawa ahead of the interests of Saskatchewan people. We can think of the changes that they made, Mr. Speaker, to the gutting of the family class of the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program. That is a clear fact, Mr. Speaker.

The minister doesn't have to take my word for it that this is an injustice that is occurring. Students, faculty, the U of R administration have all spoken out about the harsh treatment, Mr. Speaker, that is being pursued by the federal government on this issue. We know that the Sask Party government has sent a letter. We understand that there were discussions that occurred between the ministers of Justice, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the government now: are they content to simply sit on the sidelines, watch these two women to be handcuffed, put on a plane, and sent home? Is that now their position?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the track record in terms of immigration in our province is very clear. There's been some 40,000 immigrants that have moved to Saskatchewan since our administration formed government, 7,000 during a similar period of time under the NDP [New Democratic Party] — almost six times difference between our record and the former NDP government's record.

In addition to that, if this member was so concerned about this situation as he claims, the federal minister responsible was sitting in the gallery just a few short days ago. You should have taken the opportunity then, if you're so concerned, to make representation yourself, just as we did. Unfortunately it didn't work out. But if you're so concerned, you may have made . . .

The Speaker: — I would ask the minister to direct his comments through the Chair. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

[14:15]

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, what a pathetic response. Here we have a minister, here we have a minister, Mr. Speaker, who wants to outsource his role of advocating for Saskatchewan people.

The students, Mr. Speaker, these two women who are at the University of Saskatchewan, are attending a provincial institution. These women are here carrying, Mr. Speaker, their experience of Saskatchewan. Surely we owe it to them, Mr. Speaker, that these women be treated fairly. Why the minister would not actually stand up and promote Saskatchewan's interest to the federal ministers is beyond me. Mr. Speaker, we

have seen even the university administration, Mr. Speaker, saying, “We don’t condone the breaking of the law, but we are concerned with what we feel is disproportionate punishment,” coming from Barb Pollock.

Mr. Speaker, this matter should matter to the provincial government. This is about our provincial reputation and this is about the fair treatment of two women who came to this province for a better future. Will the minister actually stand up and take our interests to the federal minister?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, we take our role very seriously with respect to this situation. We have written to the federal minister. We’ve also made representation in person to the federal minister, both the Justice minister and myself, with respect to this situation. But when the opportunity arose for the critic on Immigration to make a similar representation to the minister, where were you? Where was he, Mr. Speaker? The minister was sitting right in that gallery a short few steps away from the member opposite. And did he take the opportunity to ask a question or did he take the opportunity to get on his feet and walk up into the gallery? No, he didn’t, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is we take the situation very seriously and we wish you would as well.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Ticketing System for Occupational Health and Safety Offences

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise in the Assembly to introduce another tool in a series of measures introduced by this government to improve health and safety outcomes for the working women and men of Saskatchewan. Our government is committed to promoting growth while protecting workers. Saskatchewan’s injury rate is one of concern to the government.

We are taking up the challenge to create healthier and safer working conditions for Saskatchewan workers. We all need to work together to improve workplace health and safety outcomes. Our ministry’s occupational health and safety division is working hard to promote and enforce safety, conducting 4,500 on-site inspections each year, and now occupational health officers will be empowered to issue on-site tickets through the implementing of a ticketing system for 71 occupational health and safety offences. These offences can apply to individual workers, employers, and supervisors. Occupational health and safety is a system of shared responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, summary offence ticketing will serve as a deterrent to non-compliance and improve health and safety outcomes for workplaces in Saskatchewan.

The summary offence ticketing regulation will become operational on January 1st, 2013, but we will introduce a six-month transition period during which occupational health officers will engage workplaces on the new ticketing regime, promoting awareness and compliance. While they will continue

to prosecute flagrant violations of the OHS [occupational health and safety] Act, they will not begin summary offence ticketing until July 1, 2013. The ministry will work with stakeholders and educate workplaces and, in due course, conduct an evaluation of this new system to ensure that it is in fact having the desired effect.

Mr. Speaker, our government values and respects the contribution of Saskatchewan’s working population. We want to keep them healthy and safe. Summary offence ticketing is just one more way we are attempting to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments made today, and I want to thank the minister for his advance copy.

And of course occupational health and safety in Saskatchewan is very, very important. Unfortunately our province has a record of having the worst or the second worst record of workplace injuries and deaths, and this is something that we need to do all that we possibly can to make sure we turn that around. And we know for now it’s been five years for Mission: Zero, and yet we still are more or less in the same place, and we need to do as much as we can.

The idea of summary offence ticketing is not a new one. In fact we have asked the minister about this several times. And it has caused an awful lot of anxiety, particularly in the workplace, as it may be directed unfairly at the workers. Now we’re going to be watching this very carefully to make sure that doesn’t happen. The minister is quite correct when he says it’s a shared responsibility. That is true.

But clearly we need to make sure that the resources to work in a safe workplace exists and that training happens — that’s important — and that plans happen, that every workplace has a safety plan, a work hazard plan and, importantly, a training process to make sure that happens. All of those are important components of a safe workplace.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I toured the province a bit in September talking about workplace issues, issues that people were most concerned about, and clearly occupational health and safety was one that people raised over and over and over again. I have to tell you that one of the tools that they would like to see is actually more inspectors. The minister talked about 4,500 inspections. I think we need to have more inspectors out there doing the work. In fact people compared it to conservation officers. I’m not sure if they’re accurate, but that fact we have more people looking after the animals versus looking after the workplace. So I’d like to see more inspectors. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to see how this is implemented. We’re going to be watching this very carefully so that everyone is held responsibly to make sure our work places are safer than ever.

Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Access to Asbestos Information

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm saddened to rise today to mark the passing of Mr. Howard Willems. Mr. Willems died on Thursday, November 8th after a long battle with mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer caused by inhaling asbestos fibres.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan the launch of a webpage on the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety's website that improves public access to asbestos information.

Asbestos, as we know, can cause chronic irreversible and life-threatening lung diseases. These diseases, which can occur several decades after exposure, include asbestosis, a lung scarring disease; lung cancer; and another rare form of cancer, mesothelioma. It is therefore vitally important that individuals have a clear understanding of the dangers as well as the proper procedures to prevent exposure.

This website offers Saskatchewan workers and their families a starting point from which to further their understanding of asbestos hazards and controls. We're also providing a list of government buildings that have been assessed for their asbestos content. This list will improve the public's awareness of asbestos. We encourage schools, health regions, universities, municipalities to post their own list on our website so that we can continue to build on the available information.

Mr. Speaker, this is one more way in which our government is taking steps to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our workers and their families. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for sending across his remarks in advance. Mr. Speaker, this issue and this change that the government has made comes out of the discussion we've been having in the Assembly about how we can increase the public safety when it comes to the presence of asbestos in public buildings.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in question period, I congratulate and compliment the government on softening its position and taking this half-step. I do think it's important to have the online registry, however I feel that this step falls short. It falls short of being effective and moreover, Mr. Speaker, it falls short of meeting the goal and the desire of Howard Willems and the many advocates who want to reduce asbestos-related diseases in our society. Central to how it falls short, Mr. Speaker, two factors: one, is voluntary. There's no requirement for public agencies to put this information online. So it's up to each school division, up to each regional health authority, perhaps up to each Crown whether or not this information is provided.

The whole point of the registry, Mr. Speaker, is that it is mandatory. Government agencies know this information, have this information. It ought to be put online. So it needs to be mandatory and also needs to be comprehensive, Mr. Speaker. Without it being mandatory, there may be many holes in the

listing which could cause confusion and problems.

A common argument that has been used by members opposite up until, even including today, Mr. Speaker, is that the presence of a registry, there could be errors. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's even worse to have an incomplete registry where agencies aren't even putting forward the information if they don't want to. I think that's a major problem. Let's make this mandatory. Let's make this compulsory. Let's put it in legislation. Let's support this Bill No. 604, Mr. Speaker, and let's call it Howard's law. Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 59 — *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks, I will move second reading of Bill No. 59, *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*.

Current legislation to provide oversight for brand inspection needs to be updated. In its current form, it is not flexible enough to allow industry to control the delivery of services that they need. The proposed bill will add provisions so it will allow for the delivery of brand inspection services by parties outside of government. Brand inspection services in Saskatchewan are currently delivered through the Ministry of Agriculture livestock inspectors.

Brand inspection ensures that animals offered for sale are rightfully owned and verified through a brand registry. The messages come in loud and clear from livestock producers that they want and need a brand inspection service. The changes that we are proposing will allow for brand inspection to continue in Saskatchewan.

The role of government in verifying ownership of livestock is unique in Saskatchewan. No other agricultural commodity is purchased or sold in the province with a government service to verify ownership. In addition, both Alberta and British Columbia currently have industry-led and -delivered brand inspection systems. Manitoba has no brand inspection services at all.

On July 30th, I announced the formation of an industry advisory committee to review the delivery of brand inspection in Saskatchewan. I have personally met with the committee and they have met several times since then. They are consulting with livestock producers, industry, and other provinces to explore alternative delivery model options to achieve more efficient brand inspection services in Saskatchewan.

They are currently studying current brand inspection models in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, and have even looked at a model in North Dakota. They will review options for industry-led brand inspection and recommend a preferred

option to the Ministry of Agriculture. The group will look at all options, including an integrated western Canadian approach. After undertaking this analysis and stakeholder consultations, they will finalize a recommendation by early 2013.

Members of the committee include two representatives from the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, two representatives from the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, one representative from the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, one representative from the Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan, and two member-at-large representatives.

Mr. Speaker, these industry representatives are working hard on this initiative and looking forward to a new model. Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair and committee Co-Chair Mark Elford said, "I look forward to reviewing brand inspection services in Saskatchewan. An integrated western Canadian brand inspection system will help ensure the rightful ownership of everyone's cattle and be a win-win for everyone involved," Mr. Speaker.

In addition, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President and committee Co-Chair Harold Martens said, "We welcome this review of brand inspection and I look forward to examining the options on how industry can improve these services for Saskatchewan producers."

Mr. Speaker, we recognize brand inspection is important to producers in our province. As the industry evolves, so too must our service. An industry-led brand inspection model can provide more efficient, improved services to better meet the needs of producers. In order for brand inspection service to continue in Saskatchewan under the direction of livestock producers, current legislation needs to be amended. It is our intention to ensure there are no obstacles to industry when a new system is ready for implementation.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed legislation is enabling in nature. It is necessary to allow for the new delivery model when it is finalized in 2013. The exact details of the new model remain to be determined as the committee works towards its final recommendations. We want to ensure that we are not limited by the current inability of this Act to allow for third party delivery in 2013.

[14:30]

And that is why we are introducing this legislation, to allow a broader range of possible structures in the delivery of inspection services while ensuring that the Ministry of Agriculture maintains legislative responsibility.

Amendments to the Act will provide the necessary flexibility in how inspection services can be offered in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the work done under the authority of *The Animal Identification Act* is important. The government is simply bringing this authority forward in an up-to-date and forward-looking Act. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 59, *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012* be read a second time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has moved second reading of Bill No. 59, *The Animal Identification*

Amendment Act, 2012. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and offer our initial analysis of Bill 59 on behalf of the official opposition. I think it's really important that, as I indicated on many other bills brought forward by the Sask Party government, that we are certainly going to go through the bills with a fine-tooth comb to see if there's any particular issues that are trying to be hidden in terms of the agenda that the Sask Party has from our perspective, Mr. Speaker; to make sure that what the bill, as the minister alluded to, is hoping to publicly achieve that's exactly what the end result is; and that there is no other agenda that the people of Saskatchewan might not be aware of or that the people of Saskatchewan might not be supportive. So it's important that we go through these bills, Mr. Speaker.

And as small as the bills may be in some cases, it's important that we take the time. And we invite comment and we certainly invite people to come forward to share from their perspective any of their take on some of the bills that the Sask Party is proposing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, from what I understand of Bill 59, what they wanted . . . the primary focus of Bill 59 is the brand inspection services. The minister alluded to the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture is not going to be the primary player in this particular service and that while they retain the legislative authority to provide or to monitor those services, that they won't be playing a key role, Mr. Speaker.

So one of the things that I want to obviously point out is that prior to this, I'm assuming that the government did have the authority and certainly did have the manpower and the mandate to look at the brand inspection services that the producers wanted. And the minister was good enough to mention all the different groups that were involved. Now obviously the question that we would have, at the outset, is that this is obviously a shift that the minister, I believe, was proposing in this bill: to go from the Department of Agriculture playing a larger role, including staffing, to do the brand inspection services.

Now obviously we're not going to see the brand inspection services stop. Obviously this needs to continue to build. So the question we're going to ask is, how many current employees of the government do the brand inspection? Whether it's the actual physical inspection or whether it's administration or whether it's support staff out in the field, we need to know those numbers because obviously, Mr. Speaker, that has an effect on the people of Saskatchewan overall.

Now the minister, I believe, alluded to the fact that he is looking at outsourcing those services. Now obviously as there's firms out there that provide that service, is the cost in the long run to the Saskatchewan taxpayer lower or is it just a matter of time before we see the fact that these costs could actually increase? The minister very, very quickly brushed over some of the facts that he wanted to present in terms of the dollar costs and the manpower costs, Mr. Speaker. And that's one of the things that's really, really important when we look at this government and their lean programs that they have initiated

throughout the province. Is this something that we have to pay close attention to? And the obvious answer, Mr. Speaker, is yes, absolutely.

So I think one of the things that we want to do is make sure that we get those numbers from the minister as to who's working in the brand inspection branch now through his department. What are their roles? What are their costs? And as he has this transition from the department doing the work to the private sector doing the work, what are the costs overall? And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, something as important as brand inspection, it's important that we do this right. So as you're looking at the process, are we going to be compromising some of the quality services that are there now if we decide to go to a model where we have the private sector doing them?

The minister spoke about an integrated Western Canadian branding model, which I think is important that people of Saskatchewan know that if this is going to be a model that works, then obviously all three jurisdictions that the minister referenced to, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia . . . Are some of the activities and some of the processes that were undertaken, are they complementary and similar to those jurisdictions? We don't know that information yet, Mr. Speaker. And we obviously will research that particular . . . those files and compare it to the Saskatchewan model.

What's important in the agricultural sector, Mr. Speaker, is that people take the time to understand agriculture as best they can. As a member of the opposition, being born and raised in northern Saskatchewan, one of the greatest advantages that I have as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] is you get subjected to a lot of information of rural Saskatchewan and certainly how important the agricultural sector is to our province.

So it gives me a lot of pleasure as an opposition member to get up and talk about things of importance such as branding, such as marketing our cattle, the international markets, the rail line challenges. All this information, the costs, the input costs, all the information that I'm privy to in this Assembly certainly helps make me, I think, a stronger MLA overall in terms of trying to understand rural Saskatchewan as best I could.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that people out in Saskatchewan know that this information is really, really important. At the outset you see that the minister is trying to adopt a process where he's advising people that the branding model that we're working on is something that is embraced by Alberta, embraced by BC [British Columbia], embraced by the producers. And, Mr. Speaker, at the outset we sometimes don't want to take that minister's word on how they're going to support rural Saskatchewan, nor the cattle producers, Mr. Speaker, because we see some of the difficulties that the cattle industry has over the years as well as the hog industry. And the list goes on as to some of the challenges some of those industries face, and yet they see cutbacks by the federal government and quite frankly a lack of support by the Sask Party.

So, Mr. Speaker, any time they bring forward bills of this sort, I think it's important that the opposition take the time, research the bill, watch carefully what the minister is saying as to what his intent is behind the bill, and then if the bill proceeds and the

minister obviously doesn't follow the intent, that's important that it is our role as an opposition caucus to get up and point out those problems that the minister has created.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I take great interest in the fact that there was reference to the American kind of model and you see BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan and you generally see the fact that some of these groups and organizations have a traditional marketing and export co-operative plan, so to speak, that involves their American cousins. And I don't think anybody in Saskatchewan would complain against that. I think what they want to do is they obviously want to see a free flow of goods and services back and forth. So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we support those kind of notions, we support the plan that would make that a lot easier on a lot of the producers in Saskatchewan, and I think the taxpayers themselves would appreciate that. But as I said at the outset, we have to ensure that's the net goal and that it's not some confusing process that the Sask Party undertakes that creates more problems down the line. That's the important role that the opposition has.

So, Mr. Speaker, I look carefully at some of the points he's raised. Nothing to support the cattle industry, nothing to support the hog industry, nothing to support the rail line challenges. The reduction of services from the feds that we are all aware of, the fact that the cost of fuel, the costs of inputs, the lack of support in international marketing, the challenges around BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] — Mr. Speaker, there's so many challenges in the agricultural sector that the minister takes some time under this bill to talk about branding and in branding inspection services. And I would say that the bill itself may be a small part of the system overall, but there's big challenges within the ag sector that I think they also have to address.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, we have many more people that are going to respond to this bill. We have the opportunity to allow the process to unfold over the next several months and I urge the people of Saskatchewan not to take a back seat when it comes to agricultural practices or programs or bills of this sort, to the Saskatchewan Party. Because what you're doing is you're quite frankly leaving folks that may be not doing it right, and so it's important that you challenge them. It's important that you bring forward better systems and better, better ways of doing business.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's an open invitation that the opposition would like to extend to the people of Saskatchewan because what we're not going to do is take a back seat to anything that the Sask Party does to pretend to support the ag sector in the province. Because we know that they have . . . There's challenges in that industry and so far the Sask Party has sat on their hands and done absolutely nothing to address the long-term challenges that the ag sector faces in our province. They do a lot of little band-aids here and there, Mr. Speaker, but nothing to cure the ills that ail our rural and our urban people and the effect that it has on the producer overall when it comes to building this economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn Bill No. 59 at this time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of Bill No. 59, *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it

the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 60 — *The Animal Products
Amendment Act, 2012***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*.

The Animal Products Act needs to be updated. In its current form it does not provide the authority for third party delivery of inspection services. We wish to enable third party delivery of certain inspection services in the future, specifically meat and brand inspection. Right now the Act allows for only government-employed inspectors to deliver these services.

Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken to the issue of brand inspection in my remarks regarding Bill 59, *The Animal Identification Amendment Act*. However *The Animal Products Act* also needs to be amended to allow for a new brand inspection delivery model in Saskatchewan. The work currently being done by our industry advisory committee and their forthcoming recommendations will help determine what that new system will look like. This legislation will allow us to implement that new system.

The same impediment exists with respect to meat inspection for provincially registered meat, slaughter, and processing facilities in Saskatchewan. Currently the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA, provides inspection services to these facilities. However we were made aware in June 2011 that CFIA intends to withdraw these services as of December 31st, 2013.

This was a federal decision and we had no input into it. However, we have been working to address this issue and develop a new provincial meat inspection system going forward. Since we were first notified of the decision to withdraw CFIA inspectors, we have been consulting extensively with all affected meat processors in the province. While we are still determining how meat inspection will be delivered once the CFIA stops providing this service at the end of 2013, we do not want to be limited by an outdated legislative framework.

I want to be clear: food safety remains the top priority. We know that our farmers and ranchers produce safe, reliable products on their farms, and it is essential to our entire industry that we ensure food safety throughout the value chain.

There are currently 12 provincially registered facilities in the province. They have all been engaged in the process to date. Many other provinces in Canada already have their own provincial meat inspection services. Mr. Speaker, we have asked the federal government to reconsider their decision to withdraw CFIA services. However we still need to prepare for a new system after 2013, and this legislation is part of that process.

Another major initiative under this bill is to provide the livestock industry the flexibility it needs to move forward with a producer marketing assurance mechanism. To enable this, we are adding provisions to this bill to enable industry-led producer marketing assurance funds. These funds would allow industry to collect fees to establish the fund. The fees would go into a fund that would then be used to compensate producers when livestock buyers default on payment. This has happened in the past as recently as 2011 with G & M Livestock in Manitoba. The industry has expressed interest in establishing a fund. However, no consensus on final details has been determined. The legislation will simply establish the legislative capacity to implement a livestock assurance fund if and when this consensus is reached.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, *The Animal Products Act* is simply not flexible enough in its current form for industry to administer such a fund. This amendment would allow industry to step forward to administer an assurance fund on behalf of livestock producers. With the proposed amendments to the Act, we will be able to provide industry the option of running their own program if they so choose. *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012* will prepare government for this request from industry. It will allow for an appointed third party to have the authority to run an assurance fund. It will also allow assurance funds to be financed by levies for the purpose of compensating producers who do not receive payment from a livestock dealer. We are simply making room in the legislation for producers to protect their most important investment — their animals.

Mr. Speaker, producers and industry know their business better than any government ever will, and this legislation will recognize that. Mr. Speaker, the livestock industry will play a major role in our growth plan going forward. The legislation will help us to modernize our processes and services, all in consultation with producers and industry. Industry-led inspection services and an assurance fund will help to support the continued growth of the livestock industry. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012* be read a second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am again pleased to stand today to offer initial comments at the Bill No. 60.

Mr. Speaker, we obviously see this bill as being a very important bill to the future inspection services and certainly the quality assurance that the people of Saskatchewan and Canada and the international market want. So it's something that we pay very close attention to because obviously, as one would know following the news of some of the challenges that could occur, the dramatic negative challenges that could occur if we don't take the proper steps to ensure food inspection is done properly, and the fact that the quality is there and the safety is there and that there is no problem for the public health overall, Mr. Speaker.

So I think this bill is really, really important because I think what this bill does, it does have a dramatic shift in some of the other players that were obviously involved with meat inspection services, Mr. Speaker, and that's the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA, as many people out there know, many of the producers would know.

Recently the federal government have slashed hundreds of jobs within CFIA. And it's very, very disappointing, Mr. Speaker, to hear today that the minister is speaking about the lack of clarity when it comes to CFIA's future in Saskatchewan because obviously I think a lot of people in the country trust CFIA. There has certainly been a lot of people are aware of what happened with XL Foods, that there was some significant challenges there. And as a result of that, the federal government is going to be continually under attack from many, many groups and many, many people that are very, very unhappy in how that particular issue and matter was dealt with. So I think there's going to be a lot of people angry for a long, long time, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important for people out there to know what the government is planning today, the Sask Party government, is they're not planning on going to Ottawa to give the federal government extreme grief on how they handled the XL Foods crisis, Mr. Speaker. What they're going to do instead is simply say, look, these guys are getting out of the CFIA business. We're going to try and see what we can do to provide those services with the producers.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think they should be standing up for the people of Saskatchewan, standing up for the producers because I think overall, if you want to make sure that we have the quality and want to assure people of that, then we ought to have the best model possible for inspection and to make sure that these plants are operating top notch, Mr. Speaker. And unless and until we have a proven track record of some of those entities that are able to do that, Mr. Speaker, all we have right now is CFIA. CFIA has been doing this work for a number of years, Mr. Speaker. And in general when there's a crisis in the livestock industry, when there's a crisis at some of the slaughtering plants, the first groups of people that are . . . [inaudible] . . . to explain to the public, Mr. Speaker, has been CFIA.

Now what happened with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is that the federal government slashed services, slashed programs, and of course fired hundreds of inspectors whose primary role and whose job was to make sure that these plants were operating as they should and that the safety of food, the consumption of that food, was something that the people of Canada could count on when CFIA was involved, Mr. Speaker.

The minister alluded to the fact that they're trying to look at a third party to do those services once the federal government pulls out of those services in 2013. Now, Mr. Speaker, we've got to find out what exactly the minister meant when he talked about a third party. There's consultations that are going on. But the difficult part, Mr. Speaker, for the public in general . . . Because you have to make sure, when it comes to the producers themselves, that the public is assured, that the public is confident in these models. And, Mr. Speaker, when you bring in a new model without first arguing with the federal government

that they should have kept CFIA's model in place until they developed a bigger or a better or a stronger one, instead, Mr. Speaker, they simply rolled over and say, okay these guys are out of the inspection business by 2013, which is only a few months away, then we better find a different system, Mr. Speaker. We better find a better system.

And the problem we have within Saskatchewan, and I think the producers will certainly express that as well, is that how do you develop a model, a model that has some track record. If it's new, Mr. Speaker, it won't have a track record. If it hasn't got the resources, Mr. Speaker, it won't be effective. And this is the problem we have with the Saskatchewan Party is that they're reactionary and yet they're very protective of their federal cousins, even though they do things of this sort that hurt the industry dramatically, Mr. Speaker, by cutting back CFIA inspectors and also by cutting back supports for the producers and the ag sector in Saskatchewan.

So that's one of the things I think is really important at the outset, that when a minister talks about a third party inspection process and to actually get the government employees out of the way and have this become more of a industry friendly process, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that we have to balance, not only the industry interests, Mr. Speaker, but the consumers' interests as well. Because you can't have either/or; it's got to be a collaborative and very integrated system.

And that's what we find severely lacking in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, is that there has been no action by this government to condemn the federal government for cutting back CFIA supports. There's been no action by this government to condemn the federal government for a lack of service that they're providing to the industry, Mr. Speaker. And once again, they're simply reacting in a manner that is confusing to the producers that are out there. It's confusing to the opposition, and I think it's confusing the public as well.

So the federal government is exiting the inspection process by firing all the CFIA personnel, and the Sask Party comes along and saying, well we're going to do a third party process. Well questions will begin to be asked; like, what kind of process? What track record does this new entity have? What kind of resources is the new entity going to be afforded? All of these questions I think, Mr. Speaker, are good questions that the public have a right to ask and, more so, have a right to know.

Now I think industry themselves, Mr. Speaker, the industry itself has been really, really moving leaps and bounds in terms of ensuring quality. I don't think that's the problem at all, Mr. Speaker. I think people in general think that the producers in Saskatchewan — whether it's hog or whether, in this case, cattle — I think they know that the people of Saskatchewan that get involved with this business do a tremendous job.

But the most important thing is that they know, the producer knows that they have to have what they would consider a neutral qualifier of the fact that they're saying, our meat is safe, Mr. Speaker. They've got to have somebody in there, a third party. And usually it has been that they're CFIA folks that can assure the public that the process that is involved with raising cattle and selling cattle and marketing the products is safe. And that's one of the things, I think, that as a government it's

paramount that they provide that model, Mr. Speaker. And yes, it's important to consult with the industry. I'm not saying you don't consult with them, but you've got to have that independence. You've got to have that qualification, and you've got to have that expertise.

Now what I think should have happened is the federal government should have at least afforded the Saskatchewan Party with the means and the mechanisms to provide something that is a lot better than CFIA, Mr. Speaker, instead of just simply firing all those employees and eliminating all the programs that support the proper inspection and handling of meat.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that when the minister has spoken the second part of his bill, the producer assurance fund, I think we don't see anything significantly wrong with that in the sense that if a producer does run into problems with not being properly paid for his animals and his product, then obviously it's something that we need to take into account. But obviously this is going to raise the price of food because any time you have these levies put on to these animals and the products, that obviously has to be paid by the consumer.

Now we don't know what kind of levy that this would be. We don't know what kind of a problem it is throughout industry as to how many people are not getting paid for their animals. So it's difficult for us to figure out, and I'm sure it is difficult for the Sask Party to figure out what kind of levies would take care of that problem. So you've got to be careful because levies sometimes to people means extra taxes. And extra taxes to the public means of course more money out of their pocket when they go buy these products at the store. So these are really important issues, Mr. Speaker, really important issues that need to be addressed and need to be of course understood by the public.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think on this Bill No. 60, I think the minister has a lot of work ahead of him. I think he's got a tremendous amount of work ahead of him. And let me say at the outset that if the Minister of Agriculture doesn't get this right, if he doesn't get this right the entire industry is going to be affected negatively by his actions. And, Mr. Speaker, if he doesn't get it right, there'll be hundreds of families at risk if his model doesn't work to ensure that the inspections of meats and meat products produced in Saskatchewan is done with the utmost care and the utmost concern and the utmost attention.

And that's why the Minister of Agriculture should have stood up, should have stood up to the federal government and said to them, if you want to reduce or eliminate the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's programs in our province, including inspectors, then you give us the money. We'll put together a more superior model to make sure the people of Saskatchewan and the places that we market our cattle is assured by top-notch professionals. Then, Mr. Speaker, we could certainly respect what the minister is trying to do in this bill.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, the minister is simply making excuses for his federal counterpart, doesn't speak up for the producers. And when they fire CFIA workers with nothing to replace them in terms of services, it begs the question, it begs the question, why aren't they supporting the producers? Why aren't they putting

the necessary means of making sure that the consumers — which is our families and our children and our grandparents — the consumers are protected properly, Mr. Speaker?

Instead the minister sat on his hands, along with the Premier, and allowed the federal Conservatives to do what they want with CFIA. And not a peep from them, Mr. Speaker. So this bill has some serious ramifications to the future of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, not only in the sense of making sure that the inspection services are top-notch, Mr. Speaker, but now to make sure that the producers are protected in the event that they don't get payment from a meat processing operation.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of problems here. There are a lot of significant challenges. And you know, Mr. Speaker, as we had the opportunity in opposition to hear speeches from the Throne time and time again — this is the, I think it's the sixth opportunity that the Sask Party has done a speech from the Throne — and not once, not once did we ever hear them say that the federal government should be condemned for pulling out CFIA services. Not once was this mentioned on any, on any of their particular Throne Speeches to warn the people of Saskatchewan of the impending changes to CFIA, Mr. Speaker.

So the model that the minister wants to replace CFIA with, we've got a whole whack of questions as to what kind of resources are you affording them. What kind of credentials are going to be on some of the boards or commissions that we assume would be monitoring the process, Mr. Speaker? We want to know exactly, if they're able to develop the model, are they doing this development in concert with our federal cousins, or are they doing it in concert with Alberta, with BC? There are all kinds of questions.

Now if something happens — if something were to occur, Mr. Speaker, where the minister came along and said, here is our model — it doesn't work, and somebody is hurt, it's either the industry themselves get hurt, or we have some major public health crisis.

[15:00]

And the last thing we want to hear from this minister is, well we have more work that needs to be done. That's a common phrase we hear from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. We're warning them today that the model that you're hoping to develop in terms of your particular Bill No. 60, it better be far superior to what CFIA offered. It better be comprehensive. It better be well-financed, and it better be well-understood by all the players, Mr. Speaker. And above all else, it cannot pose in any way, shape, or form risk to the public for the sake of politics, Mr. Speaker.

And that's one of the most pressing things that people tell us as we engage in this particular process, is you look at what happened with XL Foods. We don't want to see that fiasco happen again, Mr. Speaker. There's been too many people hurt by this. And the last thing you want to do is hurt your industry by allowing lax controls, Mr. Speaker, and allowing inspection programs that really don't have the right credentials nor the right qualified people in charge, Mr. Speaker. And that's why these bills are so very important, that we watch very closely and carefully what the minister is proposing, and that we don't

minimize in any way, shape, or form the importance of food inspection.

We've seen evidence of that in the last few months, Mr. Speaker. And that's something that the people of Saskatchewan and Canada and, I think, the world is really, really struggling with right now is to make sure that the quality of food put in front of you and put in at the stores is something that they sometimes take for granted. But they ought to know now that they're assured of that quality and that it's safe, and that's something that's really, really important, Mr. Speaker. And that's why some days I look at the government across the way, and that confidence certainly doesn't jump up when we talk about taking on the federal government and bringing and developing better systems of public safety, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important that we mention three things in our closing comments. Number one is when the federal government slashed the programs to ensure quality inspection services for the meats that are being fed to our families, this government didn't say a word — not one little word of protest. When they slashed CFIA programs that inspected plants, that provided services that looked after public health, Mr. Speaker, not one little peep from the Sask Party. And that's a shame because their primary goal shouldn't be politics. Their primary goal should be protection of people and the protection of this industry.

The second point I would make, Mr. Speaker, is that if the minister is alluding to a third party animal products inspection process, that he better make sure it's top-notch. He better make sure that there is quality people, that they're highly, highly professional people involved, that they have the proper resources, and that it's not just something that they're doing through the back door in response to the federal government's slashing of these important jobs, and that he ought to hold the federal government to account for the action that they undertook and to ask them to transfer the resources of that particular role that they're now playing to the province, to the province, to fill that void.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think this particular minister or this Premier or this Sask Party government will dare to take on their federal cousins, Mr. Speaker. They'll simply sit on their hands and hope somebody hears their plea for help. And, Mr. Speaker, unless and until they get the federal government's resources to build that system which has to be much more superior than CFIA, then I say to you today that they should have kept CFIA intact until a better model would come.

Now the third thing, Mr. Speaker, I would point out is that industry could be dramatically, negatively affected if this process doesn't work, and never mind consumer confidence, Mr. Speaker. There's two big issues at risk here: consumer confidence in the cattle industry and the producer's industry, and the second thing of course, Mr. Speaker, is the many men and women and families that make a living off agricultural products and in this case the cattle industry. And, Mr. Speaker, they would be at huge risk if the Sask Party didn't do this right.

So we're telling from our perspective as an opposition, and certainly from many of my other colleagues, that this bill is going to deserve extra attention. The process that's going to be

unfolding is going to deserve extra attention. We need to find the data necessary as to what the federal government cut, what programs they cut. And, Mr. Speaker, we want to see what program support that they may give to the federal government, which I can assume right now is going to be zero, Mr. Speaker. But more so we're going to see what the Saskatchewan Party affords this process, and not to play politics with food safety, Mr. Speaker. That is paramount to the whole integrity of this particular place.

So my point is that today I'm going to tell the Minister of Agriculture, if you undertake this job, you better do it right. You better do it right because there's a lot at risk. There's a lot at risk, Mr. Speaker.

And I hear the member from Weyburn chirping from her chair, Mr. Speaker. And I think that one of the biggest things is that she should know, she should know more than me about the cattle industry, Mr. Speaker. And we're just making sure, we're making sure that they get the message that food inspection and the delivery of safe products on the people's plates is paramount to this particular exercise, Mr. Speaker. Because if they make one mistake in either category, then we're holding the Sask Party to task because the message has been delivered by the opposition NDP that you'd better not mess this up, that you'd better not mess this up. And we're going to watch very carefully, Mr. Speaker.

Right now, for the record, they're hooting and hollering over there, and they're making all these little phrases over there, Mr. Speaker. But what happens if there's a breakdown? What happens if some family gets sickened by a poor process that they've put in place? Then we'll see who'll be hooting and hollering after that, Mr. Speaker.

So the premise of my presentation today on Bill 60, instead of giving your federal cousins a good talking to and a good public thrashing, they sat on their hands. And now they've got to find the means and the resources to put another inspection process in place to assure the people of Saskatchewan that our producers are producing quality meat. And I'm telling them today, they better do it right, Mr. Speaker.

And all you hear from them is cat calls and laughter, Mr. Speaker. It's no laughing matter. It's a serious business because families . . . The safety of food comes first. And of course the producers, which is a huge industry in our province, their issues are important too, Mr. Speaker.

So we're going to watch very carefully the process that this bill undertakes. We're going to watch exactly what resources this minister affords this process. And we're going to see how much they speak up for Saskatchewan producers and Saskatchewan families when it comes to making sure that the federal government is held to account for their slashing of CFIA support systems and not putting anything in back, not putting anything in place to counter that, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party sat on their hands. And we'll see what happens in the future, Mr. Speaker, as the government, federal government continues turning their back on Saskatchewan's producers and the people of Saskatchewan in general.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill has a lot of questions. There's many,

many angles that we're going to undertake to make sure that the analysis of this bill is completely what we understand it to be. And if that's the case, Mr. Speaker, if that's the case, then rest assured that this bill and this process had better be done absolutely right, Mr. Speaker. It better be done absolutely correct. It better be done with a lot of professionalism, with a lot of integrity and a lot of key professional people that are in the know that'll hold the system to account between the producer and of course the consumer. And right in the middle of all that is a process to inspect our meat and to make sure this is done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, there's going to be other folks that are going to have points to be raised at this. I encourage many people out there that may be involved with all kinds of farming operations, in particular with hog and cattle, that if you have any concerns on these particular files, that rest assured that these concerns are important to us as an opposition and that this issue is too important to be partisan. So if you do have some concerns as to how the process is unfolding, that you see weaknesses within the bill or within the processes that the minister may develop, then it's your duty and your obligation to come forward and point out those weaknesses because in the long run you might be saving your industry a lot of headache, and you might be improving the system. So don't sit back and hope that this particular minister and this Sask Party have things figured out because I can assure you they don't, Mr. Speaker, they simply don't. So you have to get involved. You have to make sure your associations that are going to be at these consultations, make sure that they represent the best way to safely market your meat, to safely produce your meat, and to safely sell your meat, Mr. Speaker. I think that's really, really important that we share that message with the producers out there.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, a lot more to be said. And I'm going to re-enter the debate because more information is coming forward. We know CFIA services are going to be slashed, and we know that when that happens that there is a breakdown in inspection services somewhere. And if people don't realize this is happening and the federal government's getting a free ride of doing some of these things that threaten the safety of our food supply and nobody's giving the federal government grief, especially the Sask Party. . . . And I think that's a crying shame in this day and age, Mr. Speaker, because that would never stand, never stand when our parents and grandparents ran our provinces and ran our federal government.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's a big issue. It's an important issue. We're going to take the time in the next few months to look at the bill, and we're going to compare models of other countries and other jurisdictions. We're going to compare what the CFIA done. All this work needs to be done.

And the final point I would make on this bill before I adjourn the debate on this bill is that the minister had better do this right. And this is coming from a northern Aboriginal MLA, Mr. Speaker, that has limited experience and knowledge about the cattle industry and the hog industry and the agricultural sector in general. But this I know: that when the food supply is threatened or tainted, the public is not very forgiving. And we can't risk the comforts and the safety of our industry to in any way, shape, or form threaten that safe supply of food to our

families. And that's the message I think, Mr. Speaker, that I'm fairly confident in, and I think it's time that the Sask Party wake up to that challenge. So on that point, Mr. Speaker, I move we adjourn debate on Bill No. 60.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 62 — *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I rise to speak about Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* which will introduce four amendments to *The Parks Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government has committed to improving and expanding the provincial park system of Saskatchewan. My ministry has been working for more than two years towards meeting that commitment by holding public consultations in two areas of the province. The first amendment I am introducing today establishes a new provincial park in the area of Anglin and Emma Lakes that will result in an additional 12 821 hectares of Crown lands being protected in a park that will also absorb the existing Anglin Lake and Emma Lake recreation sites resulting in a total park area of 16 010 hectares.

Over the last two years my ministry has held two open houses, three trade show events, consulted with 25 various interest groups, consulted with five local First Nations and Métis groups as well as the respective provincial agencies, and consulted with local jurisdictions. An online survey was conducted to reach a broader cross-section of the population. Mr. Deputy Speaker, 5,500 surveys were distributed with 721 completed surveys specific to Anglin and Emma lakes returned. Overall support for the proposed park at Anglin and Emma lakes among the general public was high at 87 per cent, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Designating this new park will result in improved protection to an area of the mid-boreal upland eco region of Saskatchewan, local watersheds, and natural resources, several of which are endangered or are considered species of concern. The name of the new park as identified in this bill is Anglin-Emma Lakes Provincial Park. This name was chosen from the names of the two main lakes in the area of the new park. It is my ministry's intention that this is an interim name and that this name will be amended prior to third reading after local jurisdictions and Aboriginal communities are given a chance to comment and recommend alternative names.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am introducing an amendment that will remove 31 hectares of land from the Coteau Bay area in Danielson Provincial Park for the purposes of making this land available for cottage lot development. The land being removed has a low ecological integrity due to impact from the

construction of Gardiner Dam. To offset this reduction to Danielson Provincial Park, this amendment also adds 65 hectares of other lands which contain native prairie grassland to the park. This amendment is in line with broader inner-governmental discussions respecting recreation potential of Lake Diefenbaker and results in a net gain of 34 hectares of land for Danielson Provincial Park.

[15:15]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the third amendment improves visitor safety while they are in the parks and reduces risk to our park wildlife by reducing the potential for dangerous wildlife encounters through visitor education on the proper management of dangerous wildlife attractants. Over the past five years, our parks have experienced record growth in visitation numbers. This increase is good news for our park system but has led to increases in the number of visitor encounters with dangerous wildlife within the parks. Dangerous wildlife attractants can include such items as improperly stored food, greasy pots left for later cleaning, or waste improperly disposed of. In 2011, Mr. Deputy Speaker, close to 1,000 calls were received regarding nuisance bears with 850 of these occurring in parks.

Education of park users is foremost in minimizing wildlife encounters, but sometimes patrons refuse to become compliant with park regulations, so enforcement officers need the ability to exercise stronger authority for those few instances. The amendment will allow park officers to remove dangerous wildlife attractants and the container they are found in from campsites to a secure storage area when the owner cannot be located, leaving notification on where and how to reclaim their items. This will allow the park officers to provide information on the proper management of wildlife attractants when the items are reclaimed by the owner.

And finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fourth amendment deals with Steele Narrows Provincial Park whereby the description of the park is being adjusted to improve mapping of the park, confirm that shore lands currently shown between the waters of Makwa Lake and the current boundary of the park are part of the provincial park, and to remove a sliver of land separated from the main park area by Highway 699 so it may be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. My ministry has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Information Services Corporation to ensure agreement with the legal description and that mapping of Steele Narrows Provincial Park meets with their approval, and they have assisted with this amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to conclude, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012* (No. 2). Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport has moved that Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012* (No. 2) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to again stand on behalf of the opposition to give the public a chance to join the debate on this particular bill. And I'll do my very best to explain what the minister

alluded to in terms of the contents of the bill, but obviously there's a number of different areas that I want to challenge the bill's integrity on, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's important that again at the outset, we invite public input, and we also ask the people that may be involved with this particular bill to come forward and share with us any information that they think is important to be shared with the public because that's our role as opposition is to make sure that we hold the government to account.

Now I understood the minister speaking of Bill 62 and being four components: creating a new provincial park, Mr. Speaker; some changes to the Danielson Park; some measures to avoid animals as a result of the many people that use our parks, Mr. Speaker; and of course to talk about a sliver of land that he made reference to at the Steele Narrows Park.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I took a bit of interest in the creation of a new park. I think in general, people throughout the province think that, you know, when you look at protecting land and keeping land in its natural beauty and its original habitat, all those qualities are really important, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan I think overall would like to see much more of our land protected. And I think that at the outset, that in that particular frame of mind, I don't think you can find any people in the province that would be against creating more parks, Mr. Speaker.

That being said, it's important to know that all the different groups of people that I met with over the years as an MLA, is that we want to make sure that when we do certain things as a government or as a people that we try to get as many people's blessing on some of these projects or some of these initiatives because it's important that we have buy-in from all the groups. Now what's really important on the new provincial park that the minister made reference to, the Emma Lake and Anglin Lake park, is that the important phrase that I like to hear when people propose parks of this nature is that, we have an agreement from the many people that were consulted. Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister didn't talk about agreement. He spoke about, we consulted with five First Nations. We consulted with the local community. We consulted with some of the other industry players or the regional players. And, Mr. Speaker, people ought to know in Saskatchewan that there's a significant difference when they use the word we consulted as opposed to we have an agreement.

And that's what's really important here, Mr. Speaker, because we think in Saskatchewanland that the people know it's important to protect land. It's important to have quality parks. But it's important that we all buy in to the park and that you shouldn't create a park to create trouble and you shouldn't create a park to create division within different groups of people, Mr. Speaker. So it's important that he made reference to 87 or 84 per cent of the people in the area, local community, want to see the park created. And that goes back to my earlier point, Mr. Speaker, that the public in general like the creation of a new park. However it's important that you get as many groups of people buying in to the process as possible and not to ignore certain groups and not to ignore certain aspirations for that particular land that you want to create a park on.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, when I hear the minister talk about,

we consulted, what that means to me is that they simply dictated this was going to happen and they didn't get any approval from any of the players that would have a significant concern as it relates to the creation of a new park.

So I'm going to ask the minister during our process, did he consult with the First Nations in those areas and did he get agreement with them? And I can almost guarantee that the First Nations in that particular area, Mr. Speaker, may have had, you know, may have had some aspirations for that use of land. They may have had some concern as to the continued access to that land. They may have had some concerns that they've had traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping rights attached to that land. Now did the minister get the First Nations support? I can almost guarantee that he didn't get that support, Mr. Speaker.

Instead, what the minister would like to say in the Assembly is that we consulted with the five First Nations in that area. Well, Mr. Speaker, consultation does not equate support for that park, Mr. Speaker. And if the minister wishes to challenge me on the particular front, I'm going to ask him today to produce letters from those five First Nations that show that they support the creation of this park.

And wouldn't it be wonderful, Mr. Speaker, if they were brought in as partners to create this park so that we can see that the First Nations and the Métis people and the non-Aboriginal people in general of that area all have an ownership stake on that park and that they all support that park and there isn't any kind of costly legal battles, that there isn't any political strife created between the groups, Mr. Speaker. And to me I think that's what the important message is, is that we have some kind of partnership and that we have inclusion of all the groups of people that are impacted by the creation of this new park as kind of the basis of the minister's decision to proceed with this particular bill.

And I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, knowing some of the mistakes made early on by that particular minister, that he doesn't have the support, he doesn't have the blessing of the First Nations groups in that particular area, Mr. Speaker. So he'd much rather use the phrase we consulted with them to give the premise that he's got their support. But I can tell the people of Saskatchewan, more than likely they don't have the five First Nations' support on the creation of this park, Mr. Speaker. And I would challenge him to produce evidence contrary to my position, and I doubt very much if he could rise to that occasion, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing I think is really important is the local people have always had traditional access to that particular land. Some may have had cabins. Other people may have had trapping, traplines, and there's a lot of non-First Nations and First Nations that participate and enjoy the land. Some may want to keep the land as it is. There may be opportunity from the economic perspective to develop certain parts of that particular land that many people in the local community might be able to take advantage of. And again, Mr. Speaker, when you do referencing of consultation and 83 per cent like the idea, there's still a lot of work that needs to be done to make sure that they have buy-in by the region.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of things that we need to watch

here. And again, as I pointed out at the outset, you look at what the federal government has done to these guys again. It seems the federal government really has these Sask Party's numbers because every time the Sask Party tries to do something, your federal cousins come along and they kind of just slap them back in line and that's it.

You know, look at . . . I make reference to CFIA. And most recently on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill 62, we now know that under the federal government I believe now that they're not protecting the Clearwater River Park anymore as a heritage site. The Churchill River system is now not being protected by the federal government, Mr. Speaker. And you see those two waterways, those two important waterways, not just to the history of the country but to the future promise of our country as being pristine and clean and unhindered, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is now delisting the Clearwater River national park from protection. The Churchill River system is now being delisted. And now the minister is coming along saying, well we're going to create a new park and that will solve the problem.

Now once again we're seeing the excuse factory on behalf of the federal Conservatives — called the Sask Party — putting forward bills of this sort that really don't counter what the incredible damage that the federal Conservatives are doing. So their cousins, Mr. Speaker . . . Our opposition caucus has now determined that our best bet for the future in Saskatchewan is to make sure we tie the Saskatchewan Party's inaction to the federal government's poor planning when it comes to Saskatchewan's interest. And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know that the Sask Party and the federal Conservatives are tied at the hip, as many of them across the way have joint memberships not only in the provincial Sask Party association but there are federal Conservative members of that party as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we hear notions of a new provincial park and they got the blessing of five First Nations, I don't believe that in any way, shape, or form. When they talk about the integrity of the parks system, Mr. Speaker, they're watching their federal cousin delist critical ecosystems in our province such as the Churchill River system and the Clearwater River system and, Mr. Speaker, they sit on their hands and don't say a word. Well I don't believe that their interest in the long run is to protect our parks, Mr. Speaker.

And I think one of the things that's important too is that one of the premises of the provincial parks system, if they're not selling them or delisting them or simply exchanging a nice piece of quality parkland for less quality parkland and selling it off to their private friends, Mr. Speaker, I think those are some of the actions that the people of Saskatchewan will not forget. They will not forget. So it's important that we take the time to understand what exactly is the Sask Party doing to our parks system.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the premise behind the parks system is that you don't delist any particular areas of the park unless you have land that it's available to make sure that you don't lose acres overall from the provincial parks system on a year-by-year basis. Now what the minister's alluding to is that we are in essence increasing, as a result of no. 2, 34 acres of

park under Danielson Park. Well, Mr. Speaker, the question I have is: what land are you exchanging for what land? We need to know what's the value of that land to the Danielson Park, integrity of Danielson Park. What are you giving up, and what are you getting in exchange? Because obviously he's saying we're swapping particular land areas here. And, Mr. Speaker, given their track record, it's very interesting as to what they're trying to do in the Danielson Park.

Now, Mr. Speaker, avoiding animal encounters, you know, obviously public safety's important. That's another part of the bill that the minister alluded to and obviously we're all for safety. There are ways and means in which you could discourage animals from roaming around in your park. And it's something that's really, really important that we in opposition say, of course, we think avoiding animal encounters by taking the proper steps and minimizing the risk to your campsite, as the minister spoke about garbage and food being left out in the open and cooking pots and pans being left out in the open that obviously attracts animals because of the scent . . . So we think that anything to avoid dangerous animal encounters is something that we ought to do. And the only thing I wish they would do is avoid dangerous political campaigning by some of the Sask Party MLAs during camping season, Mr. Speaker. So I think we are all for safety. Nothing wrong with that.

[15:30]

And finally under Steele Narrows Park, he's talking about a sliver of land. And basically we'd like to know the details of that as well. Because what is a sliver of land? How many acres does this involve? And the question we have is, Agriculture wants it. What does Agriculture want it for? Do they want to sell it? Was it part of the initial decision to create Steele Narrows Park?

These are some of the things that we obviously have to check on, Mr. Speaker. But overall when it comes to protecting the environment, we give them a big fat F, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to protecting the park system, yes, tell us another one because we don't believe that in any way, shape, or form.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that in the long run we know on this side of the Assembly the people of Saskatchewan are smart enough to know when a rope-a-dope is being done on them when it comes to the park system. Because quite frankly, they're simply not going to follow in any way, shape, or form any measure to enhance, nor protect, nor build the integrity of our park system because they simply want to sell it, Mr. Speaker. And they want to sell them as quick as they can create them. And on this side of the Assembly, we're going to be bringing forth casework of that sort just so people of Saskatchewan can see evidence of that.

So I think one of the points I would make on my closing the bid on Bill 62, why don't you stand up and speak to keep the Churchill River system protected that your federal government's delisted? Why don't you stand up and speak out about the delisting of the Clearwater River Park, Mr. Speaker? Two very important ecosystems in our province.

And, Mr. Speaker, if you want to create new provincial parks, maybe you should get the blessing, partnership, and integration

of the First Nations people in that area. Then you make the parks stronger from many ways, from many cultural perspectives, from many historical perspectives, and from many stewardship points as well, Mr. Speaker. Because First Nations obviously over the years have gathered a lot of information and knowledge on how to protect the land. They would be a valuable partner as well, Mr. Speaker.

So overall I think there is a lot of problems with this particular Bill. We're going to take our time to analyze it. We're asking the people of Saskatchewan to join in the debate, bring forward your concerns. And, Mr. Speaker, there's going to be a lot more said on this particular file. But at this moment I'd like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 62.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 64 — *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Regional Parks Act, 2012*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I rise to speak about a consequential amendment to *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*. *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* updates references to *The Regional Parks Act, 1979* which are contained within *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this amendment Act is a result of the proposed enactment of *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* and is proposed to come into force on the day in which section 1 of *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* comes into force. I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport has moved that Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to stand today and once again offer our initial comments on Bill 64. And I think one of the things that's really important here, Mr. Speaker, is that the bill, while very brief — and certainly I think the minister spoke very quickly here — we assume that the bill is going to have some . . . While there's minor details of the bill as to how they're going to proceed with the regional parks plan, that there's a lot of different connections to what they want to do on the regional parks, Mr. Speaker.

We spoke about the bill earlier last week and how the minister may have the authority now above the RMs [rural municipality]

and above the community and above the regional parks board or the regional park executive that in the event that they want to sell a particular regional park, Mr. Speaker, that the minister may have that authority to overrule that particular board. That rule wasn't there before, Mr. Speaker. And I believe that Bill 64 is a consequential amendment to that particular process, Mr. Speaker, and that opens up a lot of different avenues of discussion.

And I know there's been examples of one particular regional park which they had the opportunity to try and sell this particular park, Mr. Speaker. I believe that regional park had a golf course. It had a swimming pool. It had some campsites. And, Mr. Speaker, there was a discussion with the community after the fact when the Sask Party sold that regional park. And they went in there, and they showed the people the value of selling that particular park, the Sask Party did. And the people overall decided that it was in the best interests of the region that they do this.

But you know, one of the points they raised is that geez it would've been nice to have consultation before you'd done this. And one of the amendments to the minister's bill, which I am assuming would be part of the consequential amendment Act that he's proposing just now, Mr. Speaker, is to infer greater power on him. And I go back to my earlier statement about some of the challenges that the minister has in showing the commitment to the park system. We don't see no evidence of any sort that he is supportive of that particular process. And the integrity of these parks, the integrity of our ecosystem protection measures is really called into question when the Sask Party tries to come forward and start waving that flag pretending to be champions of the environment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know over the years that people that have developed our park system have counted on the blessing and support of the many landowners, not just the First Nations or Métis communities but people that have owned farm land. And there is years and years of examples of how people have donated their farm land. If there's a special piece of land within their family farm, the parents or the grandparents took it upon themselves as an initiative to basically say, look, to their family, we think this land is so special that we ought to protect it. So as a family they donated that piece of land, and now you see the examples of how they want to keep the integrity of the ecosystems alive and well. And we see thousands of examples every year, Mr. Speaker, of how families have given up farm land, how First Nations have worked together to manage some of the lands, of how the Métis people have spoken about the need to involve them as partners, and then the environmental group is of course supportive of all those measures, Mr. Speaker.

So I think overall that there's been thousands of families that have contributed greatly to the protection of ecosystems, protection of the lands, protection of the parks systems. And that's something that I think sometimes the Sask Party doesn't take into consideration, and they ought to see some of the many thank yous and some of the awards that were handed out over the years to families that have done this, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important that people don't take any bill the Sask Party presents, even though it's very small in terms of the

quantity of pages or the presentation that the minister took — less than 20 seconds — to do that. We don't in any way, shape, or form think that it's not something that we should pay attention to, and we do plan on paying a lot of attention to Bill 64.

So again there are ramifications. There are challenges. There are issues. There are some things that the bill has not spoken about, Mr. Speaker. And all we know is that as a result of the changes that this minister has done to other parks Acts, it authorizes him more powers to delist parks. It gives him the sole authority to determine whether a regional park should be sold or not.

And, Mr. Speaker, on the one occasion that they did do this, they went in after the fact to explain to the local people why they'd done this. And the local people were gracious enough to give them support, with the qualifying statement that in the future, you try some of these things, maybe you should tell us first. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's the message that I think a lot of people that do have regional parks or provincial parks or national parks, that they're giving the message to their politicians that consultation is really, really important.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I encourage people to follow these bills through even though they're consequential bills to other bills, that there is indeed a connection here, and that you have to watch what other bills are doing because their plan is to try and confuse as many people as they can so they can get on with their privatization agenda of not just our Crowns but our provincial parks as well. And we'll be bringing forward examples, Mr. Speaker, of how they're doing this.

And I think the people of Saskatchewan feel betrayed. And what's really important is a lot of families that have donated land over the years, they're going to feel equally angry and betrayed if they start seeing some of the activity happening to the land that they have bequeathed on behalf of their families to be protected in its natural habitat as a contribution to the great ecosystems of our province of Saskatchewan.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say. There's eight other folks that are going to be speaking. There's interest groups that are out there. We ask for their engagement, their advice, and we'll certainly be talking a bit more on this particular bill. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 64.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 65 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill 65, *The Securities Amendment Act*,

2012. Mr. Speaker, the main purpose of this bill is to introduce a regulatory framework for financial products known as over-the-counter derivatives. An over-the-counter or OTC derivative is an agreement where the price, value, delivery, or payment obligation is derived from an underlying interest. OTC derivatives are used to transfer the financial risk that an underlying interest poses to a company, an institution, or an individual to another entity that is willing to accept that risk.

These derivatives are not to be confused with derivatives that are traded on an exchange. When traded on an exchange, derivative contracts are standardized and traded anonymously through secure electronic means. Such products are well regulated and an essential element of a strong global economy.

Over-the-counter derivative trades, however, are not standardized or cleared in this manner. They are executed only through bilateral negotiation. Mr. Speaker, the opaque nature of the OTC derivatives market has limited the ability of provincial market regulators to effectively monitor them and deter improper market activity and conduct.

The lack of information available on parties participating in OTC derivatives trading, including their debt position and exposure, has also limited the ability of regulators to identify the potential buildup of systemic risk. It has also limited their ability to take steps to manage that risk. In particular the threat of systemic risk is enhanced in these markets because provincial market regulators cannot identify who is participating and what risks they may present. Furthermore the absence of harmonized, robust market conduct rules has impeded the ability of provincial market regulators to take enforcement action. The framework introduced through these amendments is a significant step toward the reduction of these risks.

OTC derivatives did play a role in the financial crisis of 2008. While they are not considered the primary cause of the crisis, they made it more difficult for regulators to understand the scope of the crisis and the interactions between market participants. In 2008 the OTC market and the complexity of OTC derivative contracts was compounded by a lack of transparency. This made it challenging for regulators to identify the risk before the crisis. This is in contrast to the trading of derivatives on regulated exchanges which did not experience any significant failures during the financial crisis of 2008.

Jurisdictions where many of our Canadian firm counterparties are based, such as the European Union and the United States, are posed to impose new regulations on OTC derivative markets. This means Canadian entities may have to adhere to new requirements in those jurisdictions as well. For this reason regulatory inaction is not an option given the commitments Canada has made as part of the G20 [Group of Twenty].

Mr. Speaker, since 2008 the Canadian Securities Administrators derivative committee has been closely following international regulatory proposals and legislative developments respecting OTC derivatives. That committee has also consulted extensively with Canada's OTC derivative market participants and worked closely with other Canadian prudential regulators to determine the most appropriate approach to enhance in the regulatory framework. These proposed amendments are based on the committee's work and recommendations. An in-person

consultation session focused on Saskatchewan-based business sectors that are affected by the regulation of derivatives trading was held in Regina in September of this year.

In addition to the framework affecting OTC derivatives, Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides that certain confidential records and information gathered by officials with the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority may not be publicly disclosed. These include records relating to examination of market participants and self-regulatory organizations, review of reporting issuers, continuous disclosure records, investigations into alleged contravention of securities law, and enforcement proceedings. Protecting the confidentiality of these records is critical to ensure the effective enforcement of securities legislation, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, these amendments will provide the fine collection branch of the Ministry of Justice with the authority to enforce and collect financial compensation orders. These orders are made by Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority against individuals or companies that have contravened securities legislation through activities such as fraud. Order is made following a formal proceeding that hears and reviews evidence and quantifies the amount of the financial loss. The amount of the order is to be paid to an individual who has suffered financial loss on the account of the illegal activity.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment will provide a further enforcement tool to officials involved in protecting Saskatchewan investors. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 65, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 65, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly at the outset of Bill 65, we're going to obviously have to spend quite a bit of time on this particular bill to see exactly what the government is planning on doing with this bill, but obviously from the perspective of the opposition, non-regulation of OTC derivatives is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. I think the OTC derivatives that the minister is speaking about, that we simply, simply think that it is not going to be a problem, Mr. Speaker. That's the first thing that people ought to know is that this deserves a lot of attention.

Mr. Speaker, the minister spoke in language I'm sure that the average layperson and certainly from my perspective, one would beg the question is, what the heck is an OTC derivative? Now OTC obviously means over-the-counter, Mr. Speaker. But any time that, as an opposition, that we want to make sure that there is oversight on any financial products, Mr. Speaker, that it's important that the people of Saskatchewan be afforded that particular oversight through measures of this sort. But exactly as the minister spoke about when some of the challenges were created in 2008, they weren't certain if this particular activity helped hasten some of the challenges of 2008 when the market stumbled and people lost a lot of investment dollars and there

was a financial crisis throughout the country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is so many different products out there from the financial perspective that people have to understand market activity. They have to understand the products and the benefits that some of these particular companies may garner as a result, some of their products. And they look at things like systemic risk, of how that might affect the financial standings of not just families but governments as well overall, because many times we are connected. And they also need to determine whether these OTC derivatives, what kind of market activity are they involved with. What's the activity in the market as a result of some of their involvement?

And, Mr. Speaker, the biggest issue, of course, is a lack of transparency. I think one of the things that people ought to know is exactly what we're dealing with here. And I think any time that the consumer protection is enhanced and that there is better oversight of some of the products and some of the products that may be coming from other countries, I think it's important that people, people in general, know that there is action on that particular file to understand exactly what the effect of an OTC derivative is, on not just family finances, but certainly governments in general.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are so many . . . There is a lot of confusion as to how the global economy works. As many people know that there is money, there is trillions of dollars being stocked away in offshore accounts. And there is a lot of people wondering how that system works, Mr. Speaker. There are programs out there to make you understand exactly how some of these programs work. And obviously the minister is talking about one of the tools that may complicate the issue being an OTC derivative.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think if we are able to understand what the derivative is and what the impact it has on families and communities and the government, and then we understand how it affects the markets, how that some countries have different rules governing the derivatives, then it's important that we analyze all that and expose any particular challenges that the derivative may impose upon a family structure or our financial institutions.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of implications to how our financial system works. The minister spoke about consumer affairs and financial affairs, and these issues are something that we obviously have to pay close attention to. And as I said at the outset, that if we don't have any regulation of over-the-counter derivatives, then we ought to have that as regulation. In this stage of the game, I'm assuming that it may be anything from credit cards to a number of other products. And so I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, that we take the time to understand the bill and understand it very well.

So I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that there are provincial and federal governments involved in this process. There's companies and there's countries involved in this process. So understanding this as best we can, to protect the consumers' confidence in some of these products, we certainly want to see that continue and have this analyzed properly.

So the minister used some fairly, very strong financial wording

that we want to obviously understand better, but anything from systemic risk to robust market activity to lack of transparency in market activity to products and benefits of OTC derivatives, Mr. Speaker, is something that we have to certainly take the time to understand. And we shall. And so on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a bit more work to do on this particular file. Our folks will be analyzing this and studying this. We encourage people to participate, and we'll get certainly our perspective on how we can strengthen families, institutions, and countries. If there's a way that could be done going through this exercise, then obviously we certainly will support that.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we've a bit more work to be done on this file, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 65.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 65, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 50

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 50** — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today in the House to speak to the Bill No. 50, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012*. And I'll start off with just making a couple of comments about the minister's comments on this.

He gave a short speech the other day about the intention of this particular bill, and as I understand his comments, it's coming from actually the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. A request came through them to make some amendments to the way the bill is structured to enable these self-regulating health professionals to respond to some of the federal changes that are coming forward and recommendations from the federal level and the national level.

So I guess my first step at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to talk a little bit about the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. It's a statutory, self-regulating body, so of course the bill that gives it its authority is *The Medical Profession Act, 1981*. And in that bill there's a number of things which indicates how the medical profession will be regulated. And the College of Physicians and Surgeons is charged with the responsibility, three particular responsibilities.

One is licensing properly qualified medical practitioners. So in

order for any doctor to be licensed to practice here in Saskatchewan, he has to have, he or she has to have the approval of the college. The second area that they're responsible for is developing and ensuring standards of practice in all fields of medicine, which is of course something very important to public safety. And then finally, also of great importance to public safety and to the profession itself, is the responsibility to investigate and discipline doctors whose standards of medical care, ethical, or provincial conduct are questioned. So obviously when there are concerns about conduct, the body, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, is responsible for the investigation and discipline that may be required. So that's from the web page for the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

And I also understand that one of the regulatory agreements that exist, and this is from October 2009, is an agreement on national standards for medical registration in Canada, and that comes from an organization called the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada. So there's an agreement amongst all medical authorities across Canada to have some form of standardization of the registries that exist when it comes to registering doctors. And I think what's really interesting in their agreement from October 2009 is the principles that this group — and there's 13 members in the group; I assume Saskatchewan's college is one of them — there's five principles there. One is that protection of the public is the primary responsibility of the medical regulatory authorities.

The second principle is to the minimum standard set out in this agreement for full and provisional medical licensure in Canada. That's an agreement. They also agree on consistent and sufficiently rigorous registration and licensure processes for physicians across all Canadian jurisdictions. So again you see the principle of consistency. Fourthly — and this is something that's also important to any profession — is mobility, and principle four is to support the mobility of physicians across Canadian jurisdictions. So that's something we support, is to ensure that physicians, along with other professions, have the ability to move around in Canada and still practise their chosen profession.

And finally they list criteria, five Es, to issue a licence to practise medicine. And that includes education, evaluation of their undergraduate medical education, their experience, and their evaluation of post-graduate medical education, and finally evidence of currency of practice. So this allows doctors across Canada and colleges of physicians and surgeons across Canada to ensure that there's consistency. And I know in my profession, the legal profession, similar standards have been adopted and consistency across Canada has been desirable.

In the appendix to this agreement, they indicate that for those educated anywhere in Canada, they are looking at three main educational or training stages to get a licence. So this is something, I think, that applies across Canada. First one obviously is completion of medical school. You want to make sure that the physician has completed medical school, including part 1 of their exam. The second one is the successful completion of a post-graduate medical education program. So this is post-grad work and also part 2 of the qualifying exam. And then finally the requirement to certify as a specialist, which

would include the specialty of family medicine. So as long as a doctor has completed all three of those stages and is in good standing, he or she will enjoy full mobility amongst the provinces and the territories.

So that's the background I think to the requirement from our provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons to the Ministry of Health to basically tune up the registry requirements in *The Medical Profession Act, 1981*.

So if I want to move now into the actual changes that are being proposed, there's a number of . . .

An Hon. Member: — Yes, do.

Ms. Sproule: — Well in fact I plan to do that. I'm going to indicate, first of all, there are several registers that are established under the existing bill that it appears that the Minister of Health is now deleting as redundant. And there's going to be simply a referral to a registry because there are three registers that are deemed to be no longer required, and that's found in sections 28, 29, and 30 of the existing bill. And one is called the education register under section 28. And then there's also the, it's called the podiatric register, and that's going to be repealed as well, and there's some other ones.

So we're looking at generic language now to reference the registers rather than the specifics. So the education register was described in section 34. The podiatric surgical register was referred to in section 42.2, and it's not clear to me why there is a specific register for podiatry.

[16:00]

There's a temporary register referred to in section 31(3), and that also is being repealed. The indication in the explanatory notes to the bill, it says there are two other specific registers including the corporate register, and they're not referred to in part 3 of the Act. Specific reference to all five registers is being replaced with generic language to prevent any confusion . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — I'm having some difficulty hearing the member from Saskatoon Nutana. I know there's a number of conversations taking place. If that could be done at the back, it would be much appreciated. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's encouraging to know that you're hanging on every word that I'm saying, so I appreciate that.

So the first provision that's being amended is obviously the interpretation provision where there's a number of definitions. And what's happening is that the reference to the education register is being repealed, and then the reference to the podiatric surgical registry is being repealed as well as section (m), which is the register itself, and then under section 27, and the definition of temporary register under subsection 31(3). So that's the first change we see.

They also have to redefine who the members are. So in section

4, where the definition of the members of the college is referred to, again the amendment required there is to remove the reference to sections 28, 29, or 30 because those are being repealed later on in the amendments. So that seems to make eminent sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next clause that's being amended is section 6. And this is one that does raise some concern because what we see in section 6 is further powers of the council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to make changes within their bylaw structure rather than in legislation. And I've spoke to this before as a concern that whenever you delegate authority downward, there's less public scrutiny of those types of delegations in law. However I think when I was reading about the College of Physicians and Surgeons, they actually are required to let the public into their meetings. So any changes to their bylaws would certainly be open to the public to scrutinize through the open meeting process that they've established.

So section 6 then, the proposed amendments are just giving the council additional bylaw-making authority. And some of the specific changes are allowing for again the generic referencing of registrars. So as I indicated earlier, the specific references to the registrars are being removed and we now have simply all registers or a register in the language that's being added.

There's two new subsections in section 6 and the goal there I think is to ensure that physicians' current address is in the registers. And they said there's been a number of instances where the Privacy Commissioner has urged them to seek a legislative amendment to do this. So that makes sense, that it's important for the public to know where these doctors live and whether they're still practising in Saskatchewan. So these changes will require members to provide the college with their home addresses and other information in the bylaws that might be required, including information about themselves, the places where they practise, and the services they provide at the places where they practise. And so I think that's a good change and certainly it's one that it appears that the Privacy Commissioner has required.

One of the references there is that it will also assist with disaster planning. And so having up-to-date information on physicians and the services they require would be of assistance for disaster planning as well. So that seems to make eminent sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next section that's being changed is section 12, and that's simply using the generic reference to the registrars, and the same with clause 24(2)(a). So that's clause 7 of this bill is making those changes there. So those are pretty straightforward.

Part III, the heading has changed and there's now just . . . The existing name of part III is registration of physicians. That's just been changed now to read membership, registration, licences, etc. And that's where these changes to the specifics are being repealed. Sections 27 and 28 are being repealed. And in the substituted clauses, we now see a reference of the bylaws where the council can keep one or more registers. So it's entirely within the purview of the council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons to make determinations about which registers will be in place and how they're maintained — certainly giving them more flexibility as has been requested by the medical

profession to the minister.

There's a new section. In clause 11, they're introducing a new section 32. Actually the existing section's being repealed and we are looking at . . . Just let me find this in the explanatory note. This is one that's a bit curious to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The original provision speaks to the vesting of certain powers in the event of an emergency and in this case the Lieutenant . . . Currently the Lieutenant Governor in Council can declare an emergency to exist and may order that the council's powers become vested in the minister. The change of language in this clause is much broader, and it no longer requires the declaration of an emergency for the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council to take over the powers that are vested in the minister and the council. And I'm not sure. It's kind of broad, and that seems to be something that may be of concern where the Lieutenant Governor in Council can actually overrule the council itself.

And in that case, the types of situations where the Lieutenant Governor could declare an emergency previously was where members have withdrawn services, and we certainly recall well in Saskatchewan where medical doctors have withdrawn services and the kind of disruption that creates. It certainly could be seen to be an emergency. Also the Lieutenant Governor in Council could declare an emergency if they are of the opinion that the safety of the residents of the province is being threatened and, finally, that the council itself is not adequately discharging its responsibilities under the Act.

Now it appears that those three conditions are being maintained in the substituted section; however, it seems that no longer is it being declared an emergency. So that's something I think, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to want to take a look at and understand fully the implications of this extraordinary use of the Lieutenant Governor in Council's authority to supersede and take over the rights and the powers that are vested in the council. It seems a bit arbitrary now, and the reason for removing the requirement to declare an emergency is not immediately apparent and is certainly not something that the minister provided in his comments. So we'll have to look into that a little bit more and try and determine why this is seen as necessary.

I just wanted to go back a little bit too. Although sections 29, 30, and 31 are being repealed as well as 30.1, there was a decision to retain 31.1 itself and that is the delegation to the registrar. The explanation that's being provided is that it's being retained to ensure that the right of an individual to request review decisions remains in the legislation. And I think that's an important right for individuals, especially if decisions have been made that adversely affect their practice. It's important for these types of provisions to be at the level of legislation and not within the bylaw's authorities or the internal authorities of the council or the college itself.

So that's something I think that makes sense, that that allows the individuals who are aggrieved by decisions of the registrar to continue to apply to the council, and it remains in the legislation and it doesn't get delegated down to the college itself through its bylaw-making powers.

So moving on, section 33 of the Act is repealed. And again it's

because that section refers again to sections 28, 29, 30, and 42.1. Those sections are being repealed, so it makes sense that this one is repealed. And of course the explanation itself says, this won't impact on the ability for people to apply, appeal a decision to the court. So again that's been protected in sections 62 to 66 in the Act. So I think the view is that this is consistent with other health profession legislation and so this section is really no longer required.

We see sections 34 and 35 also being repealed, as is the heading. And in that case it's the same reasoning that, it's again, these are specific references to the registers in categories of licensure and this is no longer required. It allows the council itself of the college to respond more quickly to changes of licensure including anticipated changes recommended by the work that's being undertaken by the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada. And that's the agreement I spoke to earlier where the Canadian medical regulators are looking to standardize this kind of registry work across the country and just make it easier for physicians to practise in Canada.

We also see section 36 is being repealed as well and it's substituted . . . And in here 36 has again the references to all the other registers: the education register, the temporary register, the corporate register, or the podiatric surgical register, and now it's just any register. So that makes sense; it cleans up the language. There's no concerns there.

And then we look at section 17. We see that section 37.3 is being repealed and section 37.5 is being amended. Now the explanatory notes, again, are just that these are . . . again there's specific references to the registers of the college and they're being again replaced with the more generic language. So there are no issues with respect to that.

Section 37.7 is repealed, again, because it refers to the specific registers. Section 41 is also being repealed. And the view given in the explanation is that this section 41 deals with inactive members, but because those sections in part III are being repealed, that is no longer necessary. So that section's being repealed as well.

Section 42.2 is also being repealed: again specific references to the registers being replaced with more generic language. So that seems to be in order, Mr. Speaker.

We see the similar kinds of changes being made to clause 45(12)(a), and specific references are being replaced with the more generic ones. And the same goes for section 46 which is being amended in section 22 of this Act or this bill that's being proposed. And finally section 54 is being changed as well to remove the specific references and substitute them with the word "appropriate," which is consistent with the other changes that are being proposed.

The same changes are being made in section 62. This is the right of appeal section in *The Medical Profession Act*. And the specific references to registers are again being changed to say the appropriate register, and that's again consistent with the other changes that are being proposed. And section 69(1) has some minor changes that are being proposed which are really housekeeping, and it's just cleaning up the language a little bit.

And I guess the one that is most interesting to me, Mr. Speaker, is the new section being added after section 82. And this is an interesting section. I'm just going to read it out. Section 82.1(1) reads:

Subject to subsection (2), nothing in this Act prevents or limits a duly qualified medical practitioner from delegating, in accordance with the bylaws, acts in the practice of medicine that are specified in the bylaws to health professionals specified in the bylaws.

And (2) reads, "A delegation mentioned in subsection (1) may be made only if the health professional has the requisite knowledge, education, training and skill to perform the specified act".

And this change brings in other health practitioners and allows current members of the college to delegate specified acts to registered nurses. The explanatory note indicates that there's a supportive collaborative document in place that monitors this practice by RNs [registered nurses]. It's called the specialized nursing procedures by transfer of medical function. So it sounds like this is a practice that's happening at this point of time. What this legislative change will do, along with bylaws passed by the college, will better regulate the delegation of acts in the practice of medicine and place authority for those delegated acts with the appropriate regulators.

So what we see here is the ability within the bylaws for physicians to delegate certain services to medical professionals, and it seems to specify registered nurses. However I think the way that the clause is reading, it's health professionals, which would be a much broader range of professionals than registered nurses. So there's . . . again delegating something like this to the college level without legislative oversight can be of some concern, and I would think that some professions may want to watch this carefully.

[16:15]

And I guess the other concern I have is in the subsection (2) there is a requirement for the delegation to be made only if they have the requisite knowledge, education, training, and skill to perform the specified act. That gives some concern as well because it appears to be a very discretionary power that is being given and it requires pretty particular knowledge about the ability of that particular health professional to deliver that act in the practice of medicine.

So it may be happening informally now, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not sure that this is something that we would wholly endorse. I mean certainly we want to look at it more closely and make sure we understand that this is necessary and appropriate. So we're going to have to look into that one a little bit more closely to make sure if it's something that the public's comfortable with.

Certainly the minister indicated in his comments that the goal of this is to ensure patient safety, which of course is always number one when it comes to physician care. But the minister has indicated that the effort here is to provide the safest possible health care environments for patients and health providers. So whether or not that kind of delegation to health professionals is

appropriate from medical doctors is something that we'll need to keep an eye on. The minister indicated that there were a number of organizations that were consulted with about the changes and certainly we understand that these have been brought forward by the profession itself, and that seems to be a good way to go.

My final comments, Mr. Speaker, are in relation to how this approach has not been yet taken with another profession, and I've received calls and concerns from professional music teachers in Saskatchewan. They currently have legislation that sets them up as a professional body. These are people with the highest level of education and training in and teaching music. And to be an RMT or registered music teacher is something that means something, and it has the force of legislation behind it.

Sadly and unbeknownst to the Association of Registered Music Teachers this government has decided that it's no longer important for it to be registered as a profession, and they received notice earlier this summer and this spring that the legislation is going to be wiped out. We haven't seen the introduction of that bill yet and I'm personally hoping it doesn't show up on the order paper at any point.

Because this is a profession that takes itself very seriously and they have been monitoring the requirements. And what happens if it's gone and it has to form its own sort of non-profit organization is they lose the force of law to do disciplinary action.

So for parents or for anyone who's looking for a qualified music teacher, the notion that you can have letters behind your name that say registered music teacher means something to a lot of people. And if that's wiped out and taken away, all of a sudden anyone can hang up their shingle and teach music. And indeed that is happening in some circumstances without the RMT designation but at least then the association has the force of law to say these people can't be registered music teachers; they are doing it on their own without the requisite approval.

And just like the College of Physicians and Surgeons decide who are members, that's the same for the Registered Music Teachers' Association of Saskatchewan. So it's disappointing to see the government taking proactive steps in this particular bill and ensuring that the College of Physicians and Surgeons continues to monitor its membership and make sure that it's appropriate across Canada. But we don't see the same kind of treatment being afforded the teachers for the Registered Music Teachers of Saskatchewan.

And I hope we won't see that bill in this session, although they've been forewarned that it's coming. And certainly we'll have something to say about that if and when that bill is introduced. But I would strongly encourage the government to think about that and really question why it's necessary to basically demote the good registered music teachers of Saskatchewan to the non-profit status when they have the force of law which allows them . . . That bill's been in place since the 1930s so it's a long-standing bill. It's served the population very well and there's no need to fix it, because it isn't broken.

So I would hope the government would take more of this kind of approach that we see in the amendments to *The Medical*

Profession Act and encourage the professional responsibility for music teachers in the same way that we are for our physicians and surgeons.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, at this point that would be the extent of my comments on this bill, Bill No. 50 which is *An Act to amend The Medical Profession Act, 1981*. We certainly see some good changes and changes that will bring this bill in line with the other colleges across Canada and to ensure mobility for our physicians and that our physicians, as registered, are properly recorded and that the government can ensure that public safety remains number one. So I think at this point I would like to move to adjourn. What's the language I use here?

An Hon. Member: — Debate.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 50.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 50, the medical professions Act, 2012. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 51

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 51 — *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 sur les enquêtes publiques*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As is often stated, a pleasure to rise in debate today to join in the discussion around Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, Loi de 2012 sur les enquêtes publiques*. It was introduced, of course, by the Minister of Justice. In the minister's second reading speech it made reference to the work being done by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and the examination into the creation and use of public inquiries in Canada and the recommendations they had made for public inquiries legislation implementation across Canada.

Now according again to the minister's second reading speech, we're led to believe that the provinces of British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador have passed legislation based largely on the uniform Act. As we go about our work of due diligence, Mr. Speaker, that is certainly something that we'll be looking into, and we'll be looking into how this expands or contracts the abilities of public inquiries to do their business.

Again from the minister's second reading speech, there's a new bilingual complement to this Act, something that I'm sure Mr. Speaker is very pleased to see, being a solid francophile. Certainly on behalf of the official opposition, we're glad again to see legislation being modernized with an eye to the official language responsibilities of the province of Saskatchewan, and particularly for something as vital to the public's interest as the legislation governing the public inquiries.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, you think about the different inquiries that have taken place in the province over the past, both immediate, immediately in the past and historically. Again there are different sort of statements of inquiry that once upon a time would have been included in what was referred to as a Royal Commission and the way that that did work in the province of Saskatchewan. Some time ago we had the Royal Commission usage slide into public inquiries. But the great sort of service that was done to the work of gathering knowledge and information upon which, of course, solid knowledge and information being the appropriate basis for a formation of sound public policy — and ranging from things such as the daylight savings time question to rural life to, you know, larger school units — you know, there's been a great many topics of inquiry that have sent the Royal Commissions forth to the public to come back with their findings and then of course to inform action by the government and hopefully not to sit on a shelf.

It makes good sense that we're normalizing or making a more uniform approach to the question of public inquiries because of course the more sort of clarity you have on the basic terms of engagement in something as possibly contentious as a public inquiry, I think the greater chance there is that the process questions are dealt with and you can deal more squarely with the policy questions and not spend too much time process wrangling.

In terms of the current public inquiries Act, again referencing the bill itself and the minister's second reading speech, there are five sections that have been enforced for close to a century, the current Act providing a bare framework of powers for the implementation of a public inquiry. And this is critical, Mr. Speaker, the fact that "A detailed order in council is required to set out the terms and conditions and operational mandate for any public inquiry struck under provincial powers." Continuing the quote, "The new Act contains specific provisions that outline a commission's authority in a number of areas. These include standing and participation, procedure, evidence, compellability of witnesses, investigations, search and seizure, and reporting."

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of normalizing or making uniform these basic sort of functions of an inquiry, we think that that serves the public good in that it again provides clarity, provides the edge of these things for the public to know, and that it's not left largely at the whim of a particular Executive Council in terms of what constitutes a public inquiry in all good authority, in all good propriety.

The new Act provides for the creation of two types of inquiry commissions: study commissions to research, examine, and provide advice on public policy; and hearing commissions to investigate and make findings in fact in matters where there's a possibility of the findings of misconduct.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the work that's been done in Saskatchewan, in other jurisdictions, federally around commissions of study, have I think made a pretty good contribution to public policy. And again while one of the challenges I think in terms of that formulation and implementation of public policy is that balance between inquiry but to have it brought to a point, to a conclusion, and then moving forward into action. Again, if you do a good job of the

one, it tends to make for a better job of the other. And again, if you can use these tools to get out there, talk to people, bring stakeholders together, you get a solid read on what the solid ground is, what the common ground is. Again we think that that's a worthwhile pursuit and one that we'll be interested to see how it proceeds under the terms of this updated legislation.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the hearing commissions, where there is investigation and findings in fact in matters of possible misconduct, again there's a fairly broad scope of mandate for that kind of activity under the aegis of public inquiries, and especially where there are points of conflict or misconduct or wrongdoing and there is that desire to establish fact, to find fact. Again, if you can deal with the process questions off the top and get to the policy matters so that the very vehicle itself is ready to go, Mr. Speaker, I think the public is better served by that. And it's that kind of certainty around the framework, around the mandate is particularly important when it comes to matters where there can be death, there can be injury involved. And you know, it's always important to get public policy right, Mr. Speaker, but where that onus is that much more important in terms of trying to address wrongdoing or misconduct.

[16:30]

Now again in the second reading speech of the minister, there was reference to the fact that public inquiry can invoke a full judicial inquiry. I'm continuing the quote:

While large-scale inquiries may be warranted in certain circumstances, there are also situations in which a study inquiry conducted on a smaller scale and with different terms of reference would be a more appropriate way to look into certain matters. [Continuing the quote.] The new Act will give express recognition to the two different types of public inquiries and provide a process for how they may operate and report. Instead of leaving it to the order in council to create all the terms and conditions that govern a particular inquiry, the new Act will provide a basic framework for the establishment, proceedings, and reporting of all inquiries.

Again, Mr. Speaker, normalizing, making uniform the approach of the inquiries, very clearly designating the two sort of inquiries that might be had, be it a commission of study or a commission of finding fact and identifying misconduct.

Again some of the other things though that will be left up to the order in council in terms of the inquiries and in terms of what happens with Executive Council mandating and invoking this legislation, of course, goes to the question of how are these things funded, what kind of representation is provided for under the legislation, and who has standing at the inquiry itself.

Again it has been stated that reporting requirements have been established and provide:

... that reports generated by inquiries shall be made public after ensuring that privacy and confidentiality concerns are addressed. The Act also requires that a report of a commission must be released to the public by the minister within two weeks of its receipt.

We think that's a good thing to have in the legislation, Mr. Speaker, having that definite responsibility on the part of the Crown to, having conducted an inquiry, to send it back forth to the public in whose name it has been authored. So good to see that, and good to see the timeliness of the two weeks involved in the legislation.

In his second reading speech, the minister also referenced that:

... certain features of inquiries established pursuant to existing legislation that continue to be appropriate and in the public interest. [Cites the example of where] ... the Lieutenant Governor in Council will continue to maintain the flexibility to appoint commissioners who are qualified and impartial and also to set any terms and conditions specific to the inquiry. Commissions will continue to be able to determine their own procedures subject to the terms set out by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. This includes determining who is [able to participate], who is entitled to participate ...

And the funding question again, Mr. Speaker, to have those sort of features of the vital work of the commissioner, of the Commission of Inquiry up to the order in council, perhaps there could be greater certainty provided there. And we'll be looking to see, again this very piece of legislation being brought forward in the name of making things more uniform, bringing the legislation in Saskatchewan up to best standards with the Uniform Law Conference recommendations, we'll be interested to see if there are any sort of patterns that emerge there in terms of funding, in terms of standing, in terms of mandate of the inquiries to be authorized under this new legislation.

One thing that was quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, and of course given the standing of committees of the inquiry and the long-standing practice, on the other hand, of people being able to address allegations or charges being brought against them, it's a section in the minister's speech where he references:

... the new Act prohibits a commission from making findings alleging misconduct against a person before the person has been given reasonable notice of the allegations and an opportunity to respond to those allegations. If a commission decides to hold a hearing, the Act requires that the hearing be public except where considerations of privacy, the consequence of disclosure of personal information, public interests, or the right to a fair trial weigh in favour of closing a hearing.

Again, Mr. Speaker, a fair amount of latitude left in the hands of the commissioner of whatever sort of inquiries that might be authorized under this legislation, and a fair amount of power invested in that person. So how this is construed, how this works out in practice, Mr. Speaker, we will be watching with great interest to see how this plays out, whether it's narrowly construed or more broadly construed, Mr. Speaker, particularly as regards to the considerations of privacy, how that is dealt with. And again the first part of the previous quote I referenced, Mr. Speaker, again we think it's important to be able to have people answering, responding to allegations and being able to amount a defence. But again how that is carried out in practice, how that's operationalized we'll be very interested to see.

And again this is somewhat in keeping with past practice, but the minister references the fact that:

The new Act also provides authority for publishing, broadcast, or electronic transmission of any proceedings before the commission.

Continuing the quote:

Commissions will continue to retain the ability to compel the attendance of witnesses and require the production of evidence. Commissions will also have search and seizure powers and the ability to apply to the court for contempt orders. Also under the new Act, decisions, acts, or omissions of the commission will be conclusive and will not be subject to judicial review by the courts.

That last point, Mr. Speaker, I think is of great interest. And again, there being no sort of appeal mechanism in place, we'll see how that plays out in practice, Mr. Speaker. But of course the right to appeal is something that's fairly well-respected, and for good reason in the court system. How it plays out under the new Act, we shall see.

The clarification of the powers and functions of an inquiry, the ensuring of inquiry commissions being based on modern standards of the administrative law, that these commissions are adequately empowered to govern their own processes effectively — I think these are all things that have informed this legislation. And certainly that is claimed by the minister, and we have no reason to doubt that. But of course we reserve the right for further inquiry ourselves, Mr. Speaker, in terms of examining how this lines up alongside the other jurisdictions that have been cited, responding to the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and their work on public inquiries. The minister's proclaimed intention that flexibility should be maintained for the creation of different types of inquiries, again how that plays out in practice, Mr. Speaker, we shall see.

But I guess on the whole this would seem to be in response to the uniform law commission work. And again, if this improves the ability of public inquiries to do their business and to be seen as acting as fairly and impartially in the name of the public good as possible, we hold out some hope for that, Mr. Speaker. But we'll be watching the implementation of this new piece of legislation in general.

Of course we'll be consulting more broadly throughout the community with folks on this legislation as well to make sure that all is as it appears to be and to see if there aren't any consequences of this legislation that aren't automatically apparent, in terms of the work that we've been able to do on it to date.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of the debate on Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 52

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 52 — *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we get to debate matters of great consequence in this Chamber. Sometimes we get to debate consequential amendments. It's in service of that that I'm here today, Mr. Speaker, again pleased to rise in debate and consideration of Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*.

Again this being a consequential amendment Act following after the Bill No. 51 discussion, Mr. Speaker, again in the stirring yet succinct speech that was given about this piece of legislation by the Minister of Justice, this Act consequentially amends 45 English Acts and one English regulation adopting the powers conferred on a commissioner pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act*.

In the minister's second reading speech he identifies the fact that:

In each case the amendment makes a change to refer to the provisions of the new Act that correspond with the powers under the current Act. The changes are made to ensure consistency with *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. In each case the amendments will refer to specific provisions in the new Act in order to maintain the status quo.

The minister recited the example of the majority of the Acts being amended to provide powers conferred on the commission by section 11, the power to compel evidence; section 15, contempt of commission; and section 25, the authority to hire staff.

Presently, in terms of the way this plays out then, Mr. Speaker, again according to the minister's second reading speech:

Presently *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* and *The Labour Standards Act* provide for the powers of a commission pursuant to sections 3 and 4 only.

Continuing on the quote from the second reading speech:

As such, amendments to those Acts will only extend the powers conferred on the commission in section 11 and section 15. Similarly each of *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act* currently grant inspectors all the powers, privileges, and immunities of commissioners. Accordingly, in addition to referencing sections 11, 15, and 25 in those three Acts, it will also extend the immunities conferred on the commission pursuant to section 29.

So again, Mr. Speaker, it's a consequential amendment Act and, you know, a fairly straightforward matter. And as a consequence of that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn

debate on Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 53

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 53 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Having come off the consequential amendment Act debate, this one's sort of a denouement, kind of miscellaneous in nature, and I'm sure we'll be moving to repeal before long.

Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, legislation is characterized as housekeeping in nature, and certainly legal counsel and various of the ministries certainly in the Department of Justice, the Ministry of Justice do fine work in terms of making sure that our legislation is up to date and examining the statutes of the province for the more arcane and out-of-date pieces of legislation. And it's always sort of interesting to see what gets kicked up under the municipal statutes repeal Acts of different governments, Mr. Speaker, and this one is no exception.

It moves to repeal 11 statutes no longer necessary or having become obsolete. And in those statutes, Mr. Speaker, I also find that in the move to repeal different pieces of legislation, you can oftentimes . . . It's an interesting sort of reading of the history of the province, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that legislation that may have come forward with great appeal and force at certain points in the province's history have been passed by by events and are no longer necessary.

[16:45]

But you know, moving from sort of back to front, the 11th, I would imagine, Act being repealed under this is *The Subdivisions Act*, which of course was passed in 1914, and which has provided the Saskatchewan Municipal Board with the authority to revise the property assessment of a subdivided area in a rural municipality and to permit the owner of a subdivided area to occupy adjoining vacant land for the purpose of common cultivation.

Again referring to the second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, of the minister, wherein that subdivision Act permitted:

. . . the registrar of land titles to exercise a variety of powers in a subdivided area without obtaining planning approval from the director of planning. The Saskatchewan

Municipal Board has no record of using this Act in the last 25 years, nor do land title officials recall having received an application pursuant to the Act. All sections of the Act have either been superseded by other provisions or have become redundant or inconsistent with current legislation, and [subsequently] the Act can be repealed.

So there you have it, Mr. Speaker, the sort of reigning champion in this piece of legislation is the 1914's *The Subdivisions Act*. And again that's not to say we won't be doing our due diligence, Mr. Speaker, in terms of following up with the municipalities and the folks up in the North to make sure that that particular provision is in fact worthy of repeal. But, you know, 25 years without use would certainly seem to make it a good candidate as such.

Another Act being repealed under *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act* is *The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act*. It was passed in 1960 to assist towns and cities with the attraction and promotion of industrial development by providing accommodation or financial assistance to industries. In the second reading speech, the minister states that:

The Act provides the authority for incorporations, powers, distributions of profits or assets, directors and other matters for industrial development corporations being established under the Act.

The minister went on to state that:

There are no active corporations that meet the criteria in the Act, and the last active corporation was formally dissolved in September of 2011. This Act can be repealed as municipal governments are able to establish corporations pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, *The Cities Act*, or *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*.

It would be very interesting to know just what that corporation that was dissolved in September of 2011, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps we'll find a juncture at which the ministry can make that known to the House.

Moving on to Bill No. 9 being repealed by the Act. It was passed to implement federal legislation which has also become obsolete and can be repealed. *The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act* was passed in 1939 to implement the federal *Municipal Improvements Assistance Act of Canada*. The federal Act enabled loans to municipalities or power corporations across Canada for the construction and operation of public works. It required the provincial government to approve the projects and guarantee the loans. The federal Act was repealed in 1983, making the provincial legislation obsolete.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation being passed initially in 1939 to respond to federal offerings under the federal municipal improvements assistant Act was very much part of the changes that arose out of the Depression and that sort of ongoing discussion that we have in Canada that we like to call federalism and the appropriate division of powers between the different levels of government. And I think one thing from that time, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the fact that it used to be

municipalities that were responsible for the delivery of social services and the inadequacy of municipal resources in the face of the kind of destitution and poverty that arose out of the Great Depression in the 1930s which particularly affected places like Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the way that we had to get into a new deal as regards the way that the federal government marshalled their powers, the provincial government marshalled their powers, and certainly the municipalities.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it's a bit of a historic artefact today, but I think it's an artefact as such because it's almost unthinkable now. And the sort of spirit that is entailed in this piece of legislation is now many fold and subject to continuing debate on many fronts, Mr. Speaker, certainly, but that federal-provincial-municipal co-operation that is needed and is vital to the addressing of public goods and addressing of needs, you know, which people find important. I think it's inherent in that Act, and that spirit has spread forward throughout other sort of actions and statues guiding the work of government today.

Again on the theme of federal-provincial relations is the repeal of *The Municipal Development and Loan Act*, having initially been passed in 1964 to implement a federal Act, the federal *Municipal Development and Loan Act*, having been passed in 1963 and provided for provincial governments to borrow monies from the federal government and to loan those monies to municipalities for capital works to improve the unemployment situation throughout Canada. The Act was repealed in 1983 federally and as such rendered the provincial legislation obsolete.

Again, Mr. Speaker, so you look at federal stimulus packages these days or cost-shared programs that address the very fundamental needs of citizens in the province of Saskatchewan, be it for infrastructure, and we think of things like roads and waterworks, parks, you know, pick your sort of infrastructure that people value, Mr. Speaker. A lot of these things are legacies of programs exactly like this.

And again, Mr. Speaker, and you don't have to drive very far in this town of ours to know that, you know, there needs to be a better job done of the federal government, the provincial government, and the municipal government coming together again to address needs. And a perfect example is as regards housing. And I'm not talking about the generation of press releases. I'm talking about the actual provision of honest-to-goodness units of affordable housing and work that should be sort of automatic and co-operative between the different levels of government. You know, it shouldn't be this matter of ongoing programs warranting a press release all the time, you know, as the situation gets worse. But where's that genuine co-operation, Mr. Speaker? And how can the different levels of government get together to do a better job of serving the people?

Moving through the statutes being repealed, Mr. Speaker, *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act*. Nearly 100 years ago, the municipal Acts required municipalities to issue debentures with prescribed terms of 10 or 15 to 40 years and to levy annual rates for repayment. *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act* was passed in 1915 to provide municipalities with the ability to extend terms of debentures with the approval of the Saskatchewan government's authority, now vested in the

Saskatchewan Municipal Board. Presently the municipal Acts provide the ability for municipalities to finance and restructure financing instruments, including debentures, subject to the SMB's [Saskatchewan Municipal Board] approval where municipalities and the board need to extend the payment terms on debentures. They now do so based on the authority of the current Act.

The terms under *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act* have not been used in the last 15 years and can as such be repealed. Again, Mr. Speaker, something that has been transcended in other pieces of legislation, superseded and no longer necessary.

I'm sure from this corner of the House to that corner of the House, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure there's a great interest in *The Cut Knife Reference Act* which was passed in 1978 wherein the Act replaces Cut Knife, previously one word as two words, and there be no current legislation referring to Cut Knife as one word. And as such the purpose of the Act has been fulfilled and can be now repealed.

It'd be interesting to know, you know, who picked that one out, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford caught that with the eagle eye. Perhaps it was the Minister of Government Relations. You know, the mind races to try and figure out who might have put down that be repealed, Mr. Speaker.

The NewGrade Energy Inc. Act is also being repealed, the Act having been enacted to facilitate the financing, construction, and development of the heavy oil upgrader in Regina. In 2007, CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] selling its remaining interest in NewGrade Energy Inc., and as such the Act no longer being required.

And it's pieces of legislation like this, Mr. Speaker, I think of my friends that grew up on the north side in this city of ours, Regina, Mr. Speaker, and not far away from the refinery and the work that is being undertaken there, and a great many folks that I've talked to over the years, different iterations that work at the refinery, and the valuable role that the government, that the public can serve in terms of coming together with, in this case, the co-operative sector to build a heavy oil upgrader.

And I think about the work that was done by the minister in the early '90s of Crown Investments Corporation, John Penner, and the way that that individual I think strove to drive a hard bargain for the people of Saskatchewan to make sure that they were getting their interests represented appropriately and the way that that individual, as sometimes is the case, sacrificed his health to doing as good a job possible for the people of Saskatchewan, particularly as regarded those files at the time, Mr. Speaker.

Throughout the rest of the legislation, you've got *The Saskatchewan Development Fund Act* being repealed. Again we'd like to see some more information on the windup of the affairs of that Act, and perhaps that will come before a committee of this House, perhaps the Crown and Central Agencies Committee. We see the repeal of *The Sales on Consignment Act* again being superseded by other pieces of legislation. And we see the repeal of the 1947 vegetable, fruit,

and honey sales Act and again, Mr. Speaker, that balance of federal-provincial powers and the way that that has since been rendered obsolete by federal changes in legislation. And finally, Mr. Speaker, the repeal of *The Crown Foundations Act*, changes to donation policy and tax deductible status for different charitable organizations, the fact that the two universities no longer require such a piece of legislation to operate, Mr. Speaker.

Again it's always a very interesting thing to read any of *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act*, in this case, Bill No. 53, 2012. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. It now being close to the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed to 7 p.m. this evening.

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

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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