



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

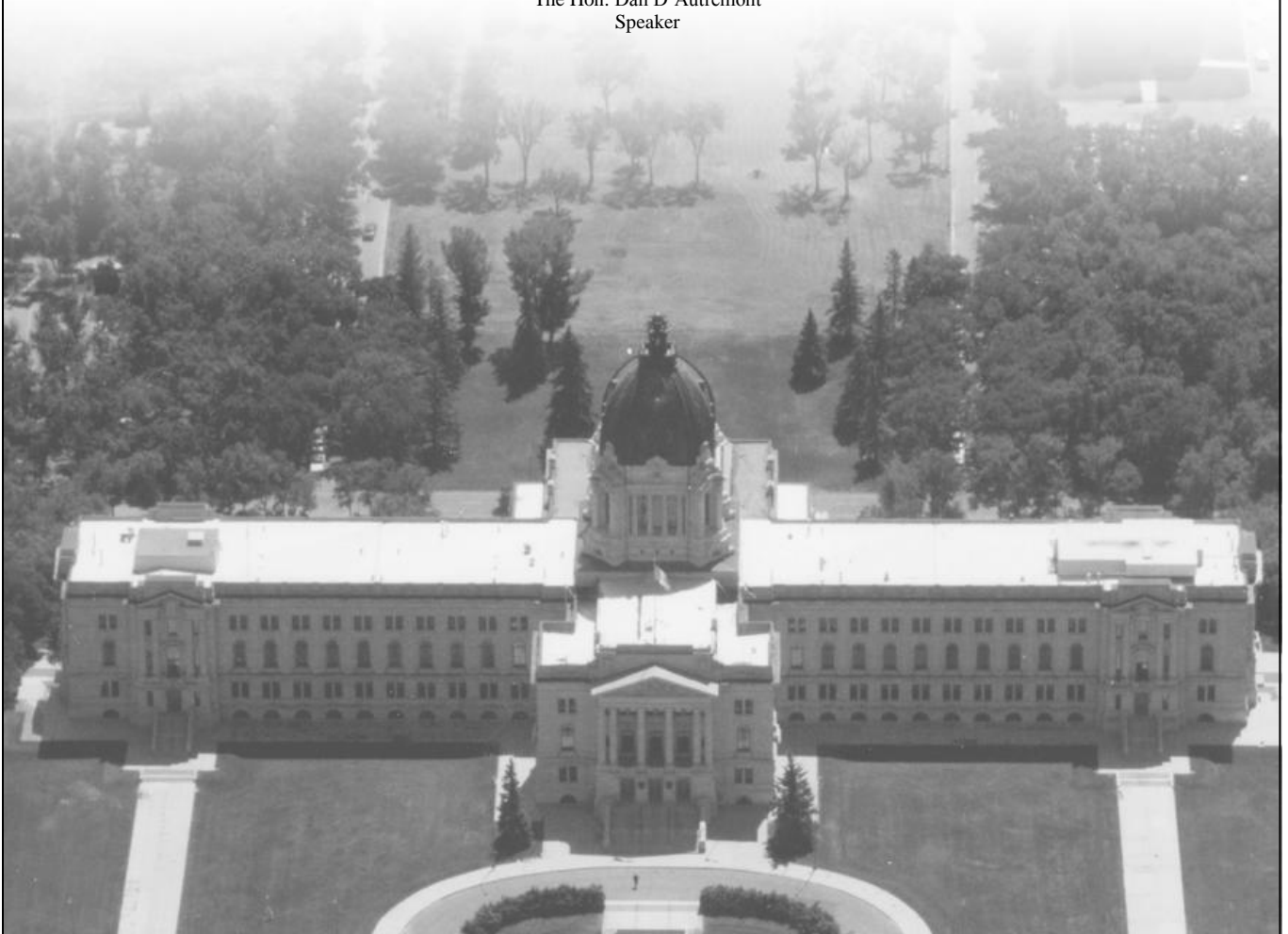
of the

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to introduce two groups today if I can. The first is . . . well one group of three and another duo that have joined us, Mr. Speaker. I'll begin with the duo.

Mr. Speaker, in your gallery is a constituent of mine, Mr. Danny Singh. There he is. He is joined by his father, Harpal Singh, who is visiting from India. Danny works at the agriculture research station in Swift Current where he is a durum breeder, and he comes by his interest in agriculture honestly. His father is a professor, now retired, of veterinary surgery who's had a distinguished career at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. That was the first university in India dedicated to agricultural research. Dr. Singh earned his Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] from the University of Illinois.

These gentlemen had the chance to come to Regina today, and I had the chance to visit with them. We had a great discussion. And they also donated, Mr. Speaker, to Movember, overlooking perhaps the specific cause in question and seeing the broader picture in supporting prostate cancer fundraising and as well as awareness for that disease and men's mental health. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming them to this Legislative Assembly today.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I can tell you that in your gallery is nine-year-old Jeremy Olson from Swift Current. Jeremy is joined by his parents, Michael and Rri. Mr. Speaker, not long ago was Jeremy's birthday. And he noted to his parents that he thought he had enough toys. So rather than ask for his friends to bring toys or presents to his birthday party — which was at the Frontier Bowling Lanes, I think, in Swift Current, a popular place for birthday parties — he asked rather that they would bring a donation to the food bank, which in Swift Current is operated by the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, he said, quote, he wanted to do something nice that made him feel nice inside. He said, "Why don't we get everyone who comes to my party to bring some food for the food bank?" And 110 pounds of food later, Mr. Speaker, the party was a great success. He's going to help us in a few hours with a Christmas greeting that we're going to do, but I want to welcome Jeremy and his folks to the Legislative Assembly at this time.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of introducing some very important guests from the western zone of the Canadian Red Cross. Today joining us is Cindy Fuchs, the

provincial director; Dave Kyba, the coordinator of disaster preparedness and response; Norm Jakubowski, RespectED manager; Victor Thomas, Chair of the Saskatchewan Council. And I'd also like to welcome Maury Harvey, Linda Korney, and Deanna Wysoskey from the Ministry of Social Services.

I'm also pleased and would really like to welcome, from Red Cross, volunteers and staff in attendance today: Tito Roman, Jayesh Parmar, Diane Bochulak, Yvette Crane, Rose Cardiff, Dee Friday, Tony and Diane Walsh, Debra Peterson, and Michael Forgues, Lara Ludwig. We also have Shanda Fuchs and Kayla Myrah with us.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Social Services has a long and positive relationship with the Canadian Red Cross. Just this past spring, we entered into an historic three-year service agreement with them for the provision of emergency shelter operations and management in our province during disaster events. It was the first agreement of this kind in Western Canada.

At lunch we had the chance to speak about Kim MacLean, who's the manager of disaster management. She has spent the last two weeks in Staten Island after Hurricane Sandy. She's managing a shelter with 1,200 individuals and feeding 3,500 individuals a day. We also talked about some of the work that the Red Cross is doing with bullying and cyber bullying.

Our partnership is working very well, and I want to thank the Canadian Red Cross and all their volunteers for their excellent work in serving the people of Saskatchewan through disaster assistance and all the other wonderful programs they do.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming these outstanding volunteers and citizens to their Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister in welcoming the individuals from the Red Cross from across this province, as well from the Department of Social Services, welcome them and thank them for that great work that they do in terms of stepping up when people are in times of crisis, in times of emergency, in times of disaster. There's no help quite like that which comes in these times of trouble, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to say, on behalf of the official opposition, thank you very much for the work that you do making sure that people have that help and that they come out stronger and better for your interaction with it. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd welcome these individuals as well to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, three very special guests in the west gallery. As we celebrate Multicultural Week in the province of Saskatchewan this week, Mr. Speaker, joining us today is Rhonda Rosenberg — if you can just give us a wave or stand up; okay, thank you Rhonda — the executive director of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. And with Rhonda are

Mr. Gagan Deep Singh, past president of Multi-Faith Saskatchewan; and Ms. May Buwembo, vice-president of the Ugandan Canadian Association of Saskatchewan; and Ms. Allen Ssemmanda, financial secretary of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. These organizations, Mr. Speaker, are involved in innovative programs that the council has invested in with the aim to build connections for lasting and productive relationships.

This week, November 18th to 25th, is Multicultural Week in our province. This is in recognition of the fact that Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to enact multiculturalism legislation. The council has provided multiculturalism material to be distributed to schools and a lapel pin for each MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to wear in recognition of this week.

As more people than ever live in Saskatchewan, our province is changing, becoming more diverse and multicultural. Mr. Speaker, the motto of our province is, "from many peoples, strength." Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members please join me in welcoming these very special guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it is my pleasure to welcome the guests here in the gallery today. I'm sorry, I don't want to completely massacre your names here without the list in front of me, so my apologies for that. But deepest welcome and thank you for all the work that you do. We do have an incredibly wonderful multicultural province and it continues to grow, thanks to your support to make sure that people continue to feel welcome and supported in our wonderful province. So thank you for all that work.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, seated in your gallery, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Erin Fogarty. Erin currently works as the team leader at Street Culture's emergency youth shelter; is months away from completing her master's degree in social work; currently maintains two jobs in two cities; her internship; a five-class course load; involvement in countless community groups focused on suicide prevention, poverty reduction, bullying awareness, and youth advocacy.

But also, Mr. Speaker, Street Culture team member Erin Fogarty is a finalist in the Scotiabank 's Game Changer contest. Should Erin win, Street Culture will be provided with prize money of \$100,000. The funds will be used to restart the community project pre-employment training for street-involved youth with a goal of ultimately becoming taxpayers.

Currently Erin is in fourth place, so every vote counts. Erin is flying to the Grey Cup as part of the contest, and the winner is going to be announced at the game. And just so we know, the voting ends tomorrow at 10 p.m., 10 p.m. tomorrow, and it's scotiabankgamechangers.com. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce a special guest. Mr. Speaker, you know, I think if anybody could present a case for having a better half it would probably be me, and I would like to introduce her to this Assembly today. My wife, Linda, is here. She's been my partner and strength for a lot of years and a lot of endeavours, and the mother of our three kids. And I would like to have you all invite her to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on cellphone coverage. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure that 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 all the neighbouring communities in each of those areas.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from all the communities I've listed, and in this particular petition the people that have signed it are from St. George's Hill and Dillon. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise . . . petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across our province as it relates to our provincial finances. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to provide Saskatchewan people with the fair, true state of our finances by providing appropriate summary financial accounting and reporting that is in line with the rest of Canada in compliance with public sector accounting standards and following the Provincial Auditor's recommendations; and also to begin to provide responsible, sustainable, and trustworthy financial management as deserved by Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from Melville, Osler, and Warman. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina

Qu'Appelle Valley.

Diwali Celebration

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday in Regina the Diwali Celebration hosted by the India Canada Association of Saskatchewan was held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Mr. Speaker, the Diwali is one of the biggest festivals of the Hindu community, celebrated with great enthusiasm and happiness in India, throughout the world. Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness. The festival is a celebration for five continuous days, where the third day is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or, better known, the festival of lights.

Diwali is known as the festival of lights because houses, shops, public places are decorated with small earthenware oil lamps called diyas. These lamps are traditionally fuelled by mustard oil and are placed in rows in windows, doors, and outside buildings to decorate them. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi find her way into people's homes. Mr. Speaker, in India oil lamps are often floated across the Ganges River. It is regarded as a very good omen if the lamps manage to get all the way across.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Diwali festival was a wonderful night filled with singing and dancing and food and sparklers for everyone. I would like all members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing the India Canada Association of Saskatchewan for putting together such an amazing event. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's provincial motto is, of course, "from many peoples, strength." And certainly the strength of our province lies in diversity. Saskatchewan is a province full of diversity that continues to grow as our population does. This week, November 19th to the 23rd, we officially celebrate diversity through Saskatchewan Multicultural Week.

In 1974 Saskatchewan led other Canadian provinces in becoming the first to enact multicultural legislation. In 1997 the Act was revised to preserve, strengthen, and promote Aboriginal culture and to acknowledge the historic and current contributions of First Nations and Métis people.

I am proud to be living in a province that recognizes the right of every individual to have their identity, religion, language, and culture not only protected, Mr. Speaker, but celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking president of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan's board of directors, Bruno Kossman, and their executive director, Rhonda Rosenberg, for all their hard work. And it was a pleasure to join in the special welcome to Ms. Rosenberg as well as Mr. Singh and Ms. Buwembo today, and to join with all Saskatchewan people in recognizing the hard work and the great celebration

that is Multicultural Week in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Recruiting and Retaining Physicians

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recruiting physicians to Saskatchewan and keeping them once they're here is a priority for this government. Over the past five years we've worked hard to address this issue, so I'm encouraged, Mr. Speaker, that our efforts are being recognized at the national level by the Canadian Institute of Health Information. According to the CIHI [Canadian Institute of Health Information] report released last week, Saskatchewan continues to recruit physicians at a higher rate than the national average. Our province also has a higher than average number of family physicians located in rural areas than the Canadian average.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 240 more doctors practising in Saskatchewan today than there were just five years ago, yet there's no question that we can still use more family physicians in our province. We recognize that more work needs to be done, particularly in rural and remote areas. Our government has added more training seats and medical residency positions at our medical college because we know that when we train doctors here they are more likely to stay here.

We have also created a made-in-Saskatchewan program to assess the skills of foreign-trained doctors. We continue to work with our provincial recruitment agency, Saskdocs, to not only bring more doctors to our province but also to work at retaining our Saskatchewan-trained physicians.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to stabilizing the physician workforce in Saskatchewan. The recent CIHI report proves our efforts are showing results and we will continue those efforts to bring even more physicians to Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Life of Pi World Premiere

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a big week for one of my constituents, author Yann Martel. He's the author of *Life of Pi*, which has been made into a feature Hollywood film, and the world premiere is tonight in Saskatoon. Oscar award winner Ang Lee, director of other films such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the *Hulk*, and *Brokeback Mountain* took on this complex novel, turning it into a visually stunning 3-D cinematic experience.

Yann Martel was born in Spain and has spent much of his life living all over the world and in cities in Canada. In 2003 Yann was offered a writer-in-residence position at the Saskatoon Public Library, and he hasn't left. He developed a deep affection for Saskatchewan and prairie land. He says:

The Canadian prairies are underappreciated. People race through them to get to the mountains the way people in the Louvre rush past the Tintoretts, Fra Angelicos, and the Rembrandts to get to the Mona Lisa.

His novel *Life of Pi* was released in 2001, selling 780,000 copies in Canada and 7 million copies worldwide. It has won several prizes, including the 2002 Booker Prize, and was chosen as one of five books for the 2003 CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] literature competition Canada Reads.

The book is said to be an inspiration to many throughout the world, including leaders like Barack Obama who describes *Life of Pi* as “a lovely book — an elegant proof of God, and the power of storytelling.” Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this beautiful novel’s interpretation on the big screen tonight in Saskatoon. I ask you to join me in congratulating Yann Martel’s success.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Agribition Incoming Buyers Program

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of Canadian Western Agribition, and it’ll run all week until Saturday at Evraz Place here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, Agribition is the largest cattle show in Western Canada and it marks its 42nd anniversary this year. The theme of this year’s show is Agribition is for everyone. The show features more than 4,000 head of livestock and includes commercial displays, seminars, heavy horse pull, tours for school children, youth education, a professional rodeo, grain expo, and an international business centre.

Today the Minister of Agriculture announced nearly \$56,000 in provincial funding to Canadian Western Agribition to increase international marketing opportunities through Agribition’s newly created incoming buyers program. Agribition’s incoming buyers program will increase international marketing opportunities, promote Saskatchewan’s agriculture products, and will help build relationships that support the agriculture industry.

Mr. Speaker, in the Saskatchewan plan for growth, our government set a goal of increasing our international agri-food exports from this year’s record high, \$10 billion, to 15 billion by 2020. Through partnering with organizations like Agribition and their incoming buyers program, our government is confident that we will be able to meet that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in thanking the organizers of Canadian Western Agribition and to wish them another successful week. Thank you.

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

Government Partnership with the Red Cross

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to rise in the House today to recognize this government’s

partnership with the Canadian Red Cross and commend this organization for all the wonderful work that they do at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Social Services has a long and positive working relationship with the Canadian Red Cross. In this past spring, as the Minister of Social Services mentioned earlier, Social Services entered into a historic three-year service agreement with the Red Cross for the provision of emergency shelter operation and management in Saskatchewan during disaster events. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that this is the first of its kind of agreement in Western Canada.

This past summer this new agreement was put to the test when the Day Star and James Smith First Nations were impacted by disaster. During these unfortunate events, the Red Cross stepped up and provided excellent support to 265 people from these First Nations, demonstrating that this agreement is working and working well.

Mr. Speaker, the good work of the Canadian Red Cross goes far beyond disaster assistance. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Canadian Red Cross for the great work that they do to help prevent violence, abuse, and bullying. Through educational initiatives like the RespectED violence and abuse prevention program, they’re helping to make our schools and communities safer places for children to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The week of November 18th to the 25th has been proclaimed Saskatchewan Multicultural Week. Saskatchewan Multicultural Week recognizes the contributions of the diverse mix of cultures and nationalities that make up Saskatchewan’s growing population. It starts with First Nations and Métis heritage, which includes many people with Scottish and French ancestry.

Mr. Speaker, 2012 is the Year of the Fransaskois. We take time to honour our province’s proud francophone heritage.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 150 years our province has been transformed by the waves of immigrants, largely from Europe and Asia, who came to this land searching for a better life. And that continues today as we welcome new immigrants from around the world. It’s believed that Saskatchewan is now home to people from more than 170 countries.

For those wondering how they can participate in this year’s Multicultural Week, Mr. Speaker, an informational handout created by the multicultural council is being distributed to Saskatchewan schools to mark this annual event. This handout will let people know how they play their part in celebrating multicultural week. Mr. Speaker, as the province becomes more diverse, so do our schools and our workplaces. I encourage everyone to join in promoting the spirit of multiculturalism, not only this week but throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Information Services Corporation

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no mandate from the people nor any Sask Party campaign promise to privatize ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan]. The former minister said he wouldn't touch the Crown and said it would remain public in the annual ISC report. The Premier said the Crown corporations, not just a select few but all of them, would not be sold by the Sask Party government. The only reason they want to sell ISC is because the Sask Party can't do the math to get the budget balanced. They've run three deficits in a row, and it's obvious they are now selling whatever isn't nailed down.

Mr. Speaker, the people are flipping through the Premier's little booklet, the Throne Speech, and the election platform, and they can't find where it says the Sask Party will privatize ISC. To the Premier: on what page in those documents does the Sask Party say it will privatize ISC?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on page 44 of the platform.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, let's review the timeline and the words used by the Sask Party. The minister admitted on October 11th they had the legislation ready to go, tucked away in a drawer. Last Wednesday the minister said in this Assembly the Sask Party government had not decided on whether or not to privatize ISC he said, "We have not made the decision."

Later that day he told the press he had just received evaluations by RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] on November 9th and the decision was pending. Yet less than 24 hours later a Sask Party supporter announced province-wide on Twitter: "Looks like legislation to privatize ISC drops Monday." Mr. Speaker, if the legislation to sell ISC is being tabled today, why is the Sask Party using its insiders to tell the province in advance?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, anybody that's followed ISC and ISC's history in this province over the last decade or so would realize that members of the opposition, when they were in government, often talked about selling ISC's services around the world, Mr. Speaker. They talked about different jurisdictions that would be interested, whether it was Eric Cline talking about it, Chris Axworthy. They all talked about it, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the opposition also did an evaluation in 2003. They did an evaluation in 2006. Mr. Speaker, we know that ISC was in the legislation — taken out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have done an evaluation. We received that over a week ago. We made a decision, Mr. Speaker, in cabinet. Introduction of the bill was given on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, Wednesday in the House. I think the member opposite is talking about a tweet that happened on Thursday. If the members opposite were following the order paper as well as citizens out there, Mr. Speaker, they would have known it probably dropped on Monday as well.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that made it to *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday the minister said he had not made a decision on whether to privatize ISC. He didn't introduce any bill. Less than 24 hours later, their insider friends said they not only knew of the decision, they knew it would be coming today.

This is how the Sask Party works, Mr. Speaker. They tell their friends about their real plans instead of being straight with the public. They hide their potential sale of ISC until reporters dig it out, and then they admit that they already have the legislation drafted. One has to wonder if the Sask Party hasn't come clean on their plans for all of the Crowns.

To the Premier: if he is selling ISC, what is next? What other Crowns are on the table to be sold by the Sask Party government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, in the 2011 election campaign we were very clear. On page 44 of the platform, it talks about, Mr. Speaker, honouring the Crown protection Act. That's what we are doing. There was a deliberate action by the former government to take ISC out of the Act, Mr. Speaker — a deliberate decision, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue about timing, I find it very, very interesting. I would ask the member opposite to just lean across and talk to the House Leader, and maybe he will explain that introduction of the bill, notice to the bill, was given on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker. All you had to do was go through the proceedings and you would see that notice of the bill was introduced on Wednesday. There may have been a tweet on Thursday but maybe they were following it closer than the opposition, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact even some of the leadership hopefuls on the other side were talking about ISC's legislation being dropped today, Mr. Speaker. Maybe he's a Sask Party insider himself.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting the minister speaks of honouring that legislation when they're going back on promises that they made to the Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

Selling a highly profitable Crown will have a huge impact on the province's financial picture. There would have to be a really

good reason to sell a profitable, useful, and important Crown corporation. We know other jurisdictions are ready and willing to work with ISC as it currently stands.

To the minister: if he's accusing ISC of having limited market for its products, why hasn't he helped this Crown work to improve its services rather than selling it to the first bidder who comes along?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, ISC as I said has had a varied history in the province over the last decade or so. I would say that over the last number of years — six, seven years — it has offered excellent service to the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the product that ISC has to market now is far different than the product that it had when it was first, Mr. Speaker, introduced.

In fact opposition members, when they were in government, had plans of selling ISC. And what they found is when they went to other jurisdictions to talk about how well a service ISC was, they'd look in their own jurisdiction and find it wasn't working very well, Mr. Speaker. There were no sales at that time.

We feel ISC is positioned very well. It's doing a great job here in Saskatchewan and we think that technology and that service and the systems that they have built up will service other jurisdictions very, very well. But we also believe that, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be making sales as a Crown corporation. It needs to be looked at as a public offering which is what we are doing with ISC, to allow the public to have a share in the company, Mr. Speaker. And we think the future is very bright for ISC around the world.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party wants to talk about anything but their own record and their own words. They said they would not sell a Crown, but that has turned out to be false. They said last week they had not made up their mind to sell ISC, but that turned out to be false. They said they'd done a study and evaluated the potential for ISC, but they have yet to consult with the public, show the results of that study, and prove any new model would return the same dividends to the province.

Mr. Speaker, why does the Sask Party government put ideology ahead of common sense and want to do . . . with public ownership of the Crowns, starting with ISC?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, this is not about ideology whatsoever on this side. This is about a growth potential, Mr. Speaker. That's what this is about. Now I know the members opposite don't want to talk about growth, don't

understand growth. But when you talk about growth potential of companies that were government owned and then moved to the private sector, you could look at the very successful PotashCorp. You could look at the very successful Cameco, Mr. Speaker. There are great examples of government-owned entities that went public and then, Mr. Speaker, grew substantially.

Mr. Speaker, I know the members don't like talking about growth, whether it's the 80,000 more people that moved to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, whether it was the 12,500 more new jobs in the past year, Mr. Speaker. Or, Mr. Speaker, as of just today, Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada is looking at Saskatchewan leading Alberta for growth in 2013 and 2014.

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

Potential Changes to Labour Legislation

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. People in Saskatchewan were surprised once again by the Sask Party when the Minister of Labour started talking about policies they didn't vote for on Friday.

At a private, paid event with the North Saskatoon Business Association on Friday, the minister announced his ideas for the massive overhaul of the province's labour legislation. Mr. Speaker, then the minister went to an unprecedented step of holding another news conference on Saturday where he tried to backpedal and said he was open to hearing new views.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: in light of the minister's eleventh hour pledge to actually listen to the public, is the Sask Party government now scrapping their plans and launching a full public consultation on its massive labour bill?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. We've had a number of points over the last year where I've said and the Premier has said that we're open for discussion; we're open for consultation. We had a consultation process through the summer with some 3,800 submissions to it. We indicated during the earlier comments that were made that we were prepared to have submissions that would go right through the House and into the spring session if there was appropriate reason to make a House amendment. Mr. Speaker, we're working and we're well on in that process of getting the bill drafted and, Mr. Speaker, I'd urge the members to stay tuned and watch when that gets introduced. We're hoping that we're going to have a very good product, Mr. Speaker, and I'd urge the members to watch for it.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister said on Saturday in his rushed scum that the legislation is nearly complete. But by the sounds of what he told the NSBA [North Saskatoon Business Association], it's already written and the ink is already dry.

The Sask Party has ignored what hundreds of Saskatchewan people have said to the government. The people want a fair and balanced labour environment in this province. And the changes the minister's already revealed are out of step with what the people are talking about and are just not common sense. The minister won't seem to listen to what working people have called for when they've called for public consultations, for better workplace standards, and for balanced labour law.

Mr. Speaker, since the bill is drafted, why hasn't the government tabled it in this House today? Will the government table their massive labour law overall today?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I have two quotes I'd like to read. The first one is:

In May when we saw this coming forward there didn't seem to be a reason why this was coming forward. That was the big gap in this. There was no common sense reason for this.

Mr. Speaker, that's a quote from the member for Saskatoon Centre, the member opposite, October 31st, 2012. Mr. Speaker, I'd read the second quote:

Governments should always be ready to improve labour legislation. That readiness is an important part of a common sense commitment to a better future for the province.

That was from the first NDP submission on labour review, dated July 31st, 2012. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure which common sense approach the member opposite is going to take or wants us to take, but, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that this government is going to take a common sense approach. We are going to move the legislation so that it is consistent with other provinces. And, Mr. Speaker, it will move the province forward.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister quoting me and quoting our consultation, our reply on July 31st. It's too bad it's not on the website along with the other consultations. He should put it up there with the rest of them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan are worried about tipping the balance when it comes to labour legislation, yet that is exactly what the Sask Party wants to do. This labour legislation is an attack on collective rights. They know from Justice Ball they should consult with people instead of going through expensive, costly court decisions

And on Friday, the minister finally shot down the Premier's pet project of ending the Rand formula. Now the Premier has talked about this since May 2nd, about doing away with that court-tested means of participating in unions. But that's just the thing, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party will only talk about these very important policies if the crowd is paying. Why would the

Sask Party require people to pay to hear the new legislation that affects them?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, over the last number of months I've spoken at a number of events including the building trades council, Sask. Federation of Labour convention, minister's advisory committee, and in this House. Mr. Speaker, it was not until last week that I spoke to any kind of a business group whatsoever in any kind of a formal setting. The matter was publicized in the House. The member opposite raised it last week.

Mr. Speaker, it's the intention of this government to speak to people on both sides of the issue, from the labour side and from the business side. And, Mr. Speaker, it's surprising how many consistencies and how much common ground there is.

Mr. Speaker, I'd say to the members opposite, just point out a few things to them. When we brought in secret ballots and freedom of speech in the workplace, they said it was an attack on unionization. Well, Mr. Speaker, the sky did not fall in. When we brought in Bill 80, they said it would destabilize the construction industry. Mr. Speaker, construction industry has gone on and progressed as it never has before in this province.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party are throwing out the good, balanced labour laws that people have spent 100 years in building in favour of a slanted, one-sided approach. And this isn't good for working people and it isn't good for our economy. If this minister is really sincere about hearing new views, he should stop the road show of what is in his already drafted legislation and start one where he's listening to the people of Saskatchewan.

Now the Sask Party track record in allowing amendments to legislation, labour legislation, is zero. Not one amendment was made to their unconstitutional bills in their first term. Now he's already alluded to this earlier in one of the answers, but will the minister today firmly commit to allowing common sense amendments to be made when he eventually brings his legislation to this Assembly?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, our goal is to try and draft the bill as carefully as possible to try and avoid any significant number of changes to the legislation. Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that that bill is as ready to go as possible and that's why the good folks over at Labour Relations, Workplace Safety have been doing a lot of late-night and evening work, Mr. Speaker. We give them credit for the work that they do and we thank them for the work that they do. Mr. Speaker, if there are things that are necessary or essential to deal with the bill when it comes forward ... We have certainly done House amendments before and, Mr. Speaker, we're certainly prepared to do House amendments in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this is a government that values very much the contribution of the women and men that work in our province. Those are the people that are responsible for the prosperity and growth of this province. We thank them for their work and we want them to know and to be reassured that we will continue to look out for their rights and ensure that they have a place in our province and that they are well provided for and that they work in a labour environment that is fair, reasonable, and appropriate, Mr. Speaker.

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

Financial Support for University

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the Sask Party government's actions, the financial picture at the University of Saskatchewan is quite concerning. In addition to the shortfalls in the operating grant, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government's decision to push \$100 million of debt onto the university's books is causing problems for the campus, and, Mr. Speaker, it's now affecting programming.

Last week we learned that the university is closing the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus immediately and perhaps forever. This campus has played a vital role, Mr. Speaker, in courses related to biology, soil sciences, drama, art, and art history. It was first established in 1936. My question to the minister, Mr. Speaker: this program has been serving students for decades here in the province, does he have concerns with its closure?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I grew up in Saskatoon. I'm well aware of what goes on at the Kenderdine Campus at Emma Lake. I've never been there, but I've certainly heard discussions about it and read magazine articles about it. It's something that's part of the history of our province. Mr. Speaker, we recognize the valuable education that students have received at Kenderdine Campus. However, Mr. Speaker, the university is responsible for making program decisions that they see fit. We expect that our post-secondary institutions will continually look for opportunities to improve effectiveness and efficiency in managing costs to make sure that financial stability continues in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we provide \$304.5 million this budget year, which is a 46 per cent increase from 2007 when it was only \$208.4 million. Mr. Speaker, the university made this decision without consultation with the province, and they advise it is for a three-year trial period while they explore other options and determine the viability of the campus.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Kenderdine Campus is important to the arts disciplines as well as many other disciplines. Its loss will be felt by many. The university is facing this decision because of the financial situation it has been placed in by the Sask Party government. The minister can try; he can try all he wants to hide behind the autonomy of the

University of Saskatchewan, but everyone knows it's the minister's responsibility to properly fund the University of Saskatchewan, to provide adequate funding.

My question to the minister: will he admit it's his government's actions, through a lack of proper funding, which is causing the closure of the Kenderdine Campus through the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, during the last five years we have provided \$3.5 billion for post-secondary education and skill training. Mr. Speaker, I'll give you some more particulars. SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], \$143.4 million, a 21 per cent increase from 2007. University of Regina, \$100.9 million, a 38 per cent increase from 2007. University of Saskatchewan, \$304.5 million, a 46 per cent increase from 2007.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2007 campaign, we promised to increase operating funding by \$125 million over four years; instead we increased it by \$274 million.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can try to duck his responsibility in this matter, but it's not going to work. Mr. Speaker, it was this Sask Party government that forced nearly \$100 million onto the university's books with respect to debt, and it is having a negative effect.

You don't have to simply take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. On the 2011-12 annual report, on page 3, it says this:

Further, a change in the way the provincial government funds our capital costs, from a cash grant to requesting the university to debt finance, will increase our debt load and reduce our financial flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, it's that financial flexibility that would allow the university to keep the Kenderdine Campus open. It's that financial flexibility, Mr. Speaker, that has been removed by that government because of their decision to force nearly \$100 million of debt onto the university's books. My question to the minister: will he admit this fact? Will he admit that the \$100 million forced onto the university's books has removed its financial flexibility in order to keep programs like this operating?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I gave the member opposite some figures before, and I've got some more for him. Mr. Speaker, in the past five years we've also provided \$378 million in post-secondary infrastructure. \$112 million for the health sciences project; I don't think that took away any flexibility. \$24 million for student housing; I don't think that took away any flexibility. \$118 million in combined provincial-federal through the knowledge infrastructure

program; I don't think that took away any flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to continue to talk about funding, let's talk about their record. Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the money that they didn't spend and how it had to be made up for by the students. Between 1994 and 2007, tuition increased at the University of Regina 88.6 per cent. University of Saskatchewan, 99.2 per cent. SIAST, 263 per cent. Shameful.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, by the university's own documents, they state that their borrowing capacity is maxed out. That is because, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government walked away from its commitment to fund the Health Sciences Building upfront and forced nearly \$100 million of debt onto the university's books.

The minister can try to pretend that everything is rosy, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the financial picture on the university campus. But the reality shows a very different picture. We see, Mr. Speaker, the elimination of programs and the closure of a very important campus.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, there is an important financial town hall meeting on campus, an opportunity for the university community to get together to discuss the financial situation that it has been placed in because of the Sask Party government's actions. My question to the minister: what other bad news does he expect tomorrow as it relates to employment layoffs, as it relates to programs, Mr. Speaker, and as it relates to the Health Sciences Building?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raised the funding for the health sciences project. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite raised the issue of the health sciences project in the fall of 2003. They made an announcement that they were going ahead with it at an estimated cost at that time of \$120 million. Mr. Speaker, construction didn't start in 2003. In fact, Mr. Speaker, construction didn't start until 2008.

Do you know what happened between 2003 and 2008, Mr. Speaker? Costs went up. Costs went up by more than double. With the amount of money that they wasted because they didn't do anything in 2003, we could have built two health sciences buildings with the money that's been invested so far. And we've got to spend more on it yet to continue to make up for the deficit that was left by the members opposite.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, prior to the election, the Sask Party government put out a news release. They cut a ribbon and said they were going to fully fund the Health Sciences Building. Budget comes around, Mr. Speaker — they walk away from that promise to pay upfront, Mr. Speaker, and force nearly \$100

million of debt onto the university's books.

The minister can try to pretend that this does not have an effect on the student experience, but the results would show something different, Mr. Speaker. We see, Mr. Speaker, that with the closure of the Kenderdine Campus that the student experience quality is being affected. My question to the minister: will he admit that the actions that he has taken, his government has taken, is negatively affecting students at the University of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the university wants to be responsible and to make programming decisions, and we recognize their independence in making those. We support the fact that they are going through a process for that, Mr. Speaker, and we support the work that they do. We are not questioning their individual decisions.

Mr. Speaker, personally I know about the Kenderdine Campus, as the members opposite do. And, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to be taking any lessons from the members opposite about what should happen on the university campus, something that they sit and let languish for 16 long years where things were going there.

We have more than doubled funding there. We have included capital projects. We funded the synchrotron, Mr. Speaker. They've done nothing but had a photo opportunity before they went out of government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we'll take no lessons from the people on the other side of the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 69 — *The Information Services Corporation Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 69, *The Information Services Corporation Act* be now introduced and read for a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Highways and Infrastructure has moved first reading of Bill No. 69, *The Information Services Corporation Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table answers to questions 51 through 77.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled answers to questions 51 through 77.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 66 — *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings Act*. Mr. Speaker, this new legislation will allow the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a grant to a registered education savings plan, or RESP, at a rate of 10 per cent of the subscriber's annual contributions up to a maximum of \$250 per year per beneficiary. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, or SAGES, stems from a commitment our government made as part of our 2011 election platform.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the government announced in the 2012 budget speech that SAGES would come into effect January 1st, 2013. Mr. Speaker, SAGES is aligned with the government's goal of making post-secondary education accessible and affordable for parents and students. SAGES will provide an incentive to save for Saskatchewan children's post-secondary education and could benefit more than 83,000 of Saskatchewan children under the age of 18 through contributions made to their RESP accounts each year.

Mr. Speaker, SAGES is modelled after the Canada education savings grant, which is delivered on a national level by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, or HRSDC. The federal government through HRSDC will be administering SAGES on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this will leverage federal processes, reduce costs, and ensure a collaborative approach for administration.

Mr. Speaker, HRSDC is supportive of SAGES, and we will continue to work closely with them for the development, implementation, and administration of SAGES. We expect that SAGES will be implemented later in 2013 with it being retroactive to January 1st, 2013.

In addition the ministry has consulted with the Government of Alberta; Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, CSTF; and registered education savings plan advisory group called RESPAG. I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that all groups are supportive of SAGES.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that this legislation will provide an incentive to save for Saskatchewan children's post-secondary education, and I am happy to speak to this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings Act*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has moved second reading of Bill No. 66, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*. Is it the pleasure . . . I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to stand on behalf of the official opposition to give the Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan an initial perspective on our position as the official opposition on Bill 66. And I understood the minister to talk about the bill as it pertains to giving a support mechanism for the students and families and parents that might want to save money for a registered education savings plan. And, Mr. Speaker, of course from our perspective as an opposition caucus, we certainly are very supportive of trying to encourage people to save for a number of reasons, Mr. Speaker, and of course education being a critical one.

Now no question, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan advantage grant for educational savings is something that needs a lot of study because obviously as the minister has spoken about the amount that they're hoping to put into place in terms of matching what the parents or what the student might be able to save is up to \$250 per year. And I'm assuming that there is going to be a multi-year facet to this particular agreement. And, Mr. Speaker, certainly I think from . . . as I said at the outset, from our perspective saving for education is very, very important, and as an official opposition caucus we would support that.

But what's very disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that on one hand we see the Sask Party reaching out to some of the families that might want to save, and as we would as well if we were government. And what the problem was, and the problem is, Mr. Speaker, is that while they give with one hand they certainly are taking with the other. We see that in some instances as we watch question period today, where they're forcing the U of S to assume \$100 million in extra debt, Mr. Speaker. So some of the students that might want to go to the university for a number of reasons, they'll see a savings plan in front of them for \$250 a year, but they might see their tuition jacked up to 750 or 1,500 or 2,000 per year.

It's so difficult to determine how this program would really serve the people well, not only from the taxpayer's perspective but from the student's as well. So it gives us certainly a lot of reason to be concerned about this particular bill, not in the sense that it's trying to reach out to the students, but the net effect of the finances of the student is what we're primarily concerned about, Mr. Speaker.

As I indicated, if you're going to help the families and the students save money for education, that's something that we should all support, Mr. Speaker. And that's not something that I say frivolous because obviously helping families and students

save for education is pretty important. But to turn around and then actually ding the students and the families and the parents, you know, with the tuition cost that some of the, in this instance the U of S has to charge them to go to school, to go to a post-secondary institution, Mr. Speaker, that is where we draw the line as an official opposition.

To say to the government, and certainly on Bill 66, that we certainly are very, very confused as to what you intend to do with \$250 that you're matching families to save, and yet you turn around and adding a \$2,000 tuition fee and bill to some of the families and some of the students that you say you're going to help with this bill. So, Mr. Speaker, there's no question in my mind there is going to be a lot of families and a lot of students that are going to watch this.

And this is what's really, really important, Mr. Speaker, is that as the official opposition we can have our position and we can state our position. And we can certainly talk to people, and we could meet with different groups. And we can also, from our perspective, research what the weaknesses of this bill is or might be. But the real value, Mr. Speaker, is going out to the students' unions.

I understand there are student groups that meet on a regular basis at both the U of R [University of Regina] and the U of S and some other campuses as well. And these student unions, they will certainly look at this Act, and they'll certainly look at the actions of the Sask Party on other fronts. And they will be, I think — same thing as the opposition — they'll be a bit confused as to why are they doing this for \$250 to the maximum for one year and then turning around and dinging families 2,000 or \$3,000 more for tuition costs because they didn't follow through on their commitment with the U of S, in this example.

And, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any sense to us as the opposition of how you would put a program in place to save students \$250 a year and turn around and cost them \$2,500 in extra costs as the universities try and struggle and grapple with their debt load, Mr. Speaker, therefore trying to make sure that students pay more and more. So it's absolutely confusing.

And the advantage I think, Mr. Speaker, when you talk about the Sask advantage grant for educational savings, the only advantage I see here, Mr. Speaker, is for the Sask Party's spin. There's no question in my mind that as some of the students and the parents begin to see the increases in the tuition rates from the universities, they'll realize that they have been fooled by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

So on one hand, they're applauding their . . . They're patting their own backs saying, we're going to help the students for up to \$250 per year under this program, under this Bill 66. But on the exact opposite, because of the mismanagement of the economy and the finances, as a result the universities are assuming greater debts . . . And \$100 million of debt, Mr. Speaker, is a huge debt load for many institutions in our province. And the universities are in a very similar boat as many other places, Mr. Speaker. They simply cannot have debt of that magnitude. It's a huge burden.

So what do they do? They simply transfer that debt and those

costs of servicing that debt onto the students, the same students, many of the students that may want to apply for the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings under Bill 66. So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of information that we are going to access on this front. We need to make sure, as an opposition, that we research the financial implications of this bill versus the cost of going to a post-secondary institution for the average student.

[14:30]

We're going to try and see where the costs are, where the benefits are, Mr. Speaker. Because if all they're going to do is give a student or a parent \$250 a year and then turn around and they get a big bill of \$2,000 extra costs on the university then, Mr. Speaker, I think the parents and the students that may take advantage of this will know very quickly that the Sask Party is playing with not only their dollars, but the future of their children and their family, Mr. Speaker. And that kind of anger, Mr. Speaker, doesn't go away very easily. I think people will see through that facade very quickly.

So questions that we have under this particular bill, the Sask advantage grant for education savings, Bill 66, we appreciate the fact that the message is that you want to help families and students save for their education, up to \$250 a year, as I understood the minister to say.

And, Mr. Speaker, he spoke about other scholarship funds and foundations throughout western Canada that he has spoken with. And really, Mr. Speaker, there isn't any other foundation out there that's going to say no to any government that may want to look at giving a grant to students. Of course in theory and their general philosophy, they would applaud any amount, Mr. Speaker. So the minister making reference to some of the foundations out there that deal with student financing through western Canada, it should be noted, it should be noted that he didn't get no qualification from them and saying, this is an amazingly, amazingly fresh approach to how we can help our students, Mr. Speaker — none of that.

He made reference to the groups and foundations he dealt with and that they are supportive of the bill. And as I said at the outset, yes, of course they would be supportive of any bill that gives any student money, but really I think they want to, they want to appear to have some of those foundations' support and endorsement, Mr. Speaker. But in reality, if one were to take into consideration, as I mentioned at the outset, the debt that was placed on the U of S by this government, \$100 million, and then you contrast that to the Bill 66, then you begin to wonder, where's the benefit for the students? Where's the benefit for the families? Where's the benefit for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

So as we look through the bill in its initial phase here, we obviously want to reach out to some of the students that may be impacted by this. And I think the university students' association, the union of the students, I think they're going to have a lot to say about this particular program, Mr. Speaker. They are going to say obviously that any amount to help save for educational purposes is valuable. I think I can hear them say that. And certainly from our perspective, as I said at the outset, we would support that notion too.

But you've got to do the complete analysis of what this government's action and activity is when it comes to the university setting, Mr. Speaker. Not only are they increasing debt to just an absolutely horrific level, Mr. Speaker, they are now trying to put a small band-aid over a huge wound when it comes to the affordability issue that many of our families and students struggle with under the effort that they're undertaking to seek a post-secondary education.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's huge, huge problems. There are huge deficiencies in this bill, and they're not recognizing what they're doing on one hand, and yet they're trying to applaud on this particular bill some of their measures when it comes to saving for educational purposes.

So I tell the people of Saskatchewan, the people that may be looking at a post-secondary opportunity, families that might want to take advantage of this, the first thing I would say to them is that any family would want to take advantage of any program out there that helps them save for education. That is pretty common sense, I think it's pretty apparent in every family's and parent's mind that this is something that they ought to do. And I think many families and many people are doing this, Mr. Speaker. And as an opposition we say, great, you know. So we would encourage you to take advantage of the Saskatchewan advantage grant for educational savings.

But after you've taken advantage of this up to \$250 per year — that's the maximum they have put, Mr. Speaker — you have to then as a parent or as a student determine, okay, I'm saving 250 here. How much more is it going to cost me to go to university a year from now or two years from now, knowing full well that the university has got a lot of debt to service?

The University of Saskatchewan, the U of R, all these different institutions out there, they have a lot of debt to service. And guess what, Mr. Speaker? They're not getting any money off the government. Both the federal and provincial governments have wiped their hands clean of any further funding to these proud institutions. And now the student and the parents at home have to sit down and they have to calculate what it could cost them, the increased cost for sending their child to the university, Mr. Speaker, or to any post-secondary institution. It's going to be a considerable amount more.

So on one hand, if everything lines up as the minister indicated under this bill, if all the stars line up and everybody takes advantage of the grant program for up to \$250 per year, then there'll be some people eligible and some people not.

However, I would encourage those families and those students and those student unions out there to watch very carefully because while we're encouraging you to take the grant that's identified here — we're encouraging you to work with people that want to save for their educational purposes; that's a great idea — but to really contrast, to really contrast what this program will, how it will help you under the basic knowledge that the university that you may be attending are going to be increasing your tuition rates for them to start paying their interest and their debt that was created by the Sask Party. And you're going to find out very quickly, Mr. Speaker, that \$250 a year is not going to be enough to cover the increases that the university will want to tack on to their students because they

simply have to find the ways and means to pay their bills, to make ends meet from the university perspective. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the crux of the issue and the concern that I have and we have in opposition, on Bill 66.

So people out there ought to know that that's the kind of information that we would like to know. We know that students have increased costs in accommodation. There's increased costs in food. There's increased costs in your power, your telephone. The list goes on, Mr. Speaker. So I think people out there are sharp enough and they're very intelligent and they're very motivated to find out exactly how this is going to be an advantage to students or to families wanting to save for education and to be able to afford that education.

So the key message I would have on Bill 66 is that of course we encourage people to save for education, but what you're saving under this particular bill will be a lot less, would be a lot less from what the tuition hikes will be when the universities send you your bill for your child or for your education because the Sask Party simply refused to follow through on their election commitment from the last election to fully fund the universities' capital construction costs.

And, Mr. Speaker, what happens now they've broken the promise? Guess who's paying that. The people of Saskatchewan, the students of Saskatchewan will be paying that bill. And, Mr. Speaker, make no two bones about this fact, that it's not going to be the Sask Party is going to go back and pay that bill. They already said no, absolutely not; the door has been closed. So guess what? The students and the parents are going to be paying that particular bill.

So what kind of costs are we looking at, Mr. Speaker? I would determine when I say that the \$2,000 mark, Mr. Speaker, that's totally not something that's out to lunch. Because I've incorporated what I think is a very conservative estimate of what the fees or the tuition costs might be, but I've also looked at the costs of rents. Rents are skyrocketing in the city. I look at the costs of transportation. I've looked at the food costs. And these costs don't stay stable and nor do they decrease.

So for the student to go into Saskatoon and to be able to go to a post-secondary program, Mr. Speaker, it's going to cost you a lot more money through tuition, but it's going to cost you a heck of a lot more money if you come from outside the community and don't have any living accommodation within the city.

So we're seeing this obviously as something that is a small, small step in the right direction of encouraging people to save for their education purposes — families and students. But, Mr. Speaker, the big hammer comes when that student gets accepted into university and all of a sudden the bill comes in for tuition. All of a sudden the bill comes in for rent. All of a sudden the bill comes in for finding furniture, for finding the accommodations, for finding the transportation, for being able to be able to eat and survive in the city. Those are when all the bills are coming in, Mr. Speaker. And that's something that's really, really important and that I would encourage people to certainly take into account when they're assessing the merits of this bill.

So clearly we think the bill is short in many, many ways in terms of financial commitment, primarily because it's a much, much smaller amount to what the students and families will pay as a result of the increased tuition costs that universities will be tacking on to their children because the Sask Party simply didn't follow through with their election commitments, Mr. Speaker.

So clearly there's a lot more information we want on this bill. We are going to consult with the students' union and we are going to consult with some of the teachers and some of the faculty and some of the students as well. And the parents, Mr. Speaker: I think those are the folks that generally do a lot of heavy lifting when their children are going to a post-secondary opportunity and they should know that on one hand you've got this, but clearly they'll say, well that's great to be able to access that part of the support plan, but look at the opposite side, the cost factor. This is absolutely ridiculous.

So once again we're seeing the Sask Party give out the crumbs on one hand, and take the wallet out of the working men and women with the other hand. Because quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, as the result of the non-commitment to the universities, universities are borrowing more money and the costs for interest and paying down the principal are greater. And the only place that they could tack on those costs are onto students through the tuition fees, Mr. Speaker, and that's a crying shame.

So once again, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have a lot more to say on this particular bill. I'm very pleased to give the official opposition's first look at this bill and to assure you that there's eight other folks and thousands of families that are going to be impacted as a result of some of the, the decision that the Sask Party make. And certainly from our opposition point of view, we're going to defend those families, we're going to speak up for those families, and we're going to expose the Sask Party for some of the problems that they have created. And yet they try and hide it with small, small steps of this sort, Mr. Speaker, and it's our job as opposition to make sure we expose that.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 66.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 66, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 68 — *The Justices of the Peace
Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant
la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix***

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012*. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to introduce a

new process for determining salaries and benefits for Saskatchewan's justices of the peace.

Remuneration for Saskatchewan JPs [Justice of the Peace] is currently set through the regulations and is on a fee-for-service basis for most tasks and on an hourly wage basis for more complex matters. This bill will bring *The Justices of the Peace Act, 1988* into compliance with these principles.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan JPs perform a variety of duties and are an essential part of day-to-day functioning of our judicial system. Some of the more basic tasks performed by JPs include handling court process and paperwork, matters such as oaths, affirmations, and affidavits. Other JPs attend to more complex matters such as conducting remand and release hearings and the issuance of search warrants.

The process, Mr. Speaker, is now inadequate, given that courts have ruled the principles of judicial independence applies not only to judges but also JPs. One element of judicial independence is the guarantee of financial security to judicial officers such as JPs. Financial security embodies three requirements. Firstly, salaries could be maintained or changed only by recourse to an independent process. Secondly, no direct negotiations are permitted between judicial officers and the government. And finally, salaries may not fall below a certain minimum level.

Senior JPs, Mr. Speaker, are most responsible . . . have most of the responsibility. These individuals conduct trials for provincially regulated offences as well as bylaw and traffic safety matters. In recent years, the work of these JPs has taken pressure off our Provincial Court and improved timely access to the criminal justice system.

[14:45]

The framework introduced through this bill achieves judicial independence by granting an independent commission the authority to review and make recommendations regarding salaries and pension benefits for JPs. Following the initial recommendation of the independent commission, the annual salary for JPs will be established as a percentage of annual salary of Saskatchewan Provincial Court judge. Going forward, Mr. Speaker, the salary applicable to JPs will be adjusted annually in accordance with any adjustments to the salary for Provincial Court judges.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will bring senior justices of the peace into the public employees pension plan. In addition, as a part of its function, the independent commission will review and make recommendations regarding contributions to that plan by senior JPs and the government.

This bill also provides that the independent commission will conduct a subsequent review of JP salaries and pension benefits in 2018 and then every six years following 2018. Periodic review of these matters are required to meet the constitutional guarantee of independence, Mr. Speaker.

Steps have been taken in this bill, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the remuneration process does not impact on the independent process that is currently in place to determine salaries and

benefits for Provincial Court judges. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that the Minister of Justice, the Saskatchewan Justice of the Peace Association, and any JP shall not be granted standing to make submissions regarding salary and benefits for justices of the peace to a Provincial Court commission.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, a transitional bill or a transitional provision in this bill ensures that JPs will continue to be paid for services performed up to and until the first commission regulation comes into force. At that time, Mr. Speaker, JPs will be remunerated at the new salary level for services performed back to April 1, 2013 less any amounts earned in that transition period.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Justice of the Peace Association has been consulted with on the remuneration framework contained in the bill and supports the approach. Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure . . . Oh sorry, I jumped one here . . . move second reading of Bill No. 68, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the . . . I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm again pleased to stand up on behalf of the opposition to give the initial comments on this particular bill where we're talking about justices of the peace's salaries, Mr. Speaker. And I was pleased that we got some information beforehand.

And certainly as the minister spoke about some of the changes that he would like to see happen, Mr. Speaker, there's no question that the JPs, as we call them, are very valuable to the court system or to the justice system, and that he had alluded a bit to the information as to what their purposes are, what their role is in terms of court powers, taking oaths and affidavits, the remand and release options, and of course issuing search warrants.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the JPs have a wide variety of roles as the minister spoke about. And he also spoke about the value of the JPs in the justice process and of course within the justice system. Now we obviously, from our perspective as the opposition, we want to make sure that we know exactly what we're dealing with. So some of the educational issues that the minister alluded to when he introduced the bill, that information certainly helps. It helps a lot of lay people try as best they can to understand the role and where they fit in the scheme of the delivery of justice — I shouldn't say or use the word scheme, Mr. Speaker, but for lack of a better word — where they fit in terms of their role and when do they enter into some of the processes when there are justice matters being discussed.

What's really important from our perspective, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a defined role and a defined responsibility and certainly a defined area in which the JPs are to be used. I understand that JPs are not judges, Mr. Speaker, that they do have some limits as to what they are able to do. But there's no question in my mind that if you have a very skilled judge, you

don't want him to be tied up in some of the processes that the JPs do. And likely you don't want the JPs infringing on the judges' territories as well.

So I think it's very important that, as an opposition, that we take the time and the opportunity to try and educate the public from our perspective as to what we understand the bill's intent to be, but we also want to make sure that they understand exactly what the implications are.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, we don't have a graph nor do we have a comparison scale as to what the JPs are being paid now. Nor do we have information as to how much the JPs or how many JPs are operating in the province. Nor do we have a breakdown of the different levels of JPs. I understand the minister spoke of a JP three, level three, if I'm not wrong. But how does that, what does that salary compare to a JP two or an initial entrance of somebody that wants to be a JP?

So this is some of the information that we in opposition will want. We will obviously have our opportunity to ask those questions during estimates and we certainly will. So overall I think the JPs' salaries, I understand, are going to be tied to what a provincial court judge may make now. So what is the increase from what they're being paid now to what they may be paid later? What is that cost going to be? And if it's retroactive, what is that cost going to be?

So there's a lot of questions that we have, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that we want to take the time to understand very well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister spoke about the JPs' salaries being paid on two fronts in the current state, one being a fee-for-service option, and of course the other being an hourly wage. Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to break that down as well so the people of Saskatchewan know that we have X amount of JPs in the province, we have X amount of classes of JPs in the province, this is what the different classes and different JPs are being paid, this is what it's going to be — the new pay structure is going to result in these new costs. And we don't have that information in front of us, Mr. Speaker. But as an official opposition we've got to find out that information, and we certainly will, Mr. Speaker, as time proceeds.

So from my perspective, an initial look at the whole issue of JPs' salaries. They play an important role. They are independent of the political process. I understand that and I certainly respect that as well. But clearly I think you've got to have a good solid line so we know that there are judges, that there are JPs, that there are police officers, that there are political people, and that all these lines cannot be blurred in any way, shape, or form. And I think once that integral part of the justice system is enforced and certainly part of anything that a government does, Mr. Speaker, then and only then will we feel a bit comfortable with going down the path of recognizing the different roles and making sure they're paid accordingly.

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say. We have some very capable people in our caucus. We have several lawyers, and they know a lot about how this process works. So I think on this front that Bill 68 will certainly get good scrutiny, by not only our caucus, but the open invite to the public in

general, to the public in general, that they will come forward and give us their opinion and their take and ask questions as well of us that they may not know and they might want information on. And that option is always there.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say on this particular bill. We look forward to the information that we would want from the minister. And as a result of that ongoing work that is necessary on this particular bill, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 68.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 68, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 52, which is a piece of legislation that is intended to deal with some consequential amendments that are required in order to bring into effect Bill No. 51, which I have spoken to previously. And so this is just a continuation of that, Mr. Speaker. These types of bills, as you know, are the ones that are required to ensure that all legislation reflects changes to legislation that's subsequently affected by changes to an initial piece.

And *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012* is one that's being brought forward by the Minister of Justice to modernize the format of public inquiries and to bring it in line with the work of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And it makes sense for him to be doing that at this time. And it also makes sense and is actually required to do some consequential amendments to that to ensure that all legislation that refers to *The Public Inquiries Act* is properly amended.

So in this case, as the minister indicated in his initial comments on November 6th, he indicated that there are 45 English Acts and one English regulation that refers to the current Act, *The Public Inquiries Act*, and that in each case these amendments that are being proposed just refer to the provisions of the new Act, which is of course *The Public Inquiries Act 2012*. So he went on to say that "... the majority of Acts will be amended to provide powers conferred on a commission by section 11, the power to compel evidence; section 15, contempt of commission; and section 25, the ability to hire staff."

So there's a number of changes he's proposing. For example *The Agricultural Operations Act* is being changed to refer to the modern-day Act. *The Agri-Food Act, 2004* is being amended to strike out the reference to a commissioner under the old Act and substituting a commission now, which is the language of the new public inquiries Act, 2012, similar changes to Acts like *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*.

And certainly all the Acts that have any reference to a public inquiry, if and when it's required, as you know public inquiries are fairly public, hence their name, inquiries that involve all members of the public. And they're often quite noteworthy in the media. Anything to do with correctional services is often the ones where we do see public inquiries, both federally and provincially. And I'm not sure that we will see a lot of public hearings in relation to *The Hearing Aid Sales and Services Act*, but I'm pleased to note that that is an option available to us.

I could imagine public hearings when we get to something like *The Heritage Property Act* because that's a sensitive topic for a lot of people in this province. And obviously *The Labour Standards Act*, Mr. Speaker, is also being amended because, as we can see, under *The Labour Standards Act* there's a number of sections that refer to public inquiries. And I would expect that these sections of *The Labour Standards Act* are going to become quite used and maybe followed up on. We could be seeing inquiries, depending on the nature of the legislation that we're anticipating to be tabled soon in this House, in relation to labour standards.

We are also seeing changes to *The Land Titles Act*. Again, public inquiries are available under certain sections of *The Land Titles Act*. And with the legislation that was introduced today to privatize 60 per cent of our Crown, Information Services Corporation, which is responsible for the land titles system, obviously there may be issues that arise out of that for which a public inquiry might be needed.

There's a number of other bills. *The Mental Health Services Act* is being amended. *The Municipal Board Act* is being amended. There's references in *The Municipalities Act*.

And another one, Mr. Speaker, is *The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993*, and that's also an area where there may be necessity for a public inquiry. And it makes sense that there's references there in that statute to the availability of a public inquiry for occupational health and safety concerns. As we know, there's lots of industries in Saskatchewan where this is an important factor in the workplace, and so it makes sense that there is a reference to *The Public Inquiries Act* in those legislations and that we are making the appropriate changes, given the introduction of the new bill by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker.

Other bills that are affected are things like *The Police Act, The Provincial Auditor Act, The Provincial Lands Act*, and the list goes on.

Interestingly enough, *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* also has a reference to a public inquiry; *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*, obviously one of importance to the farming community and the producers in this province.

[15:00]

Even *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* is one that has reference to *The Public Inquiries Act*. And I'm not familiar with any actual public inquiries that have occurred under that Act, but that's one area where there is often disagreement between the land owner and the producers and whether or not the board itself was able to deal with all the disputes accordingly. Apparently the previous legislators thought it was wise to include an opportunity for a public inquiry in that instance.

We also have *The Traffic Safety Act* being amended and *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, water appeal board Act, workers' compensation Act, *The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act*. And finally there's one set of regulations that also needs to be amended, and that's *The Public Health Appeals Regulations*.

So as you see, Mr. Speaker, the influence and the impact of the public inquiries is one that's spread across a great number of types of legislation and areas of legislation in our province. And that's why there are so many Acts that are amended under this consequential amendment Act. So at this point that's probably the extent — that is the extent — of my comments to this Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. And I would move to adjourn debate on this bill.

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 member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As a new legislator, I am interested to see these types of bills being introduced in the Assembly. We saw one in the last session, and we're seeing one again today where the government is basically going through the closet and seeing what outfits haven't been worn for a while. In this case, there's a number of statutes that this government has identified that are no longer necessary. And yet we've not . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I won't touch that one, Mr. Speaker. We're going through the list of statutes that are out of style and perhaps need a little modernization in how they look to the public. So there's a number of bills in here that the government is intending to repeal, and I'll make a few comments on some of those as I go through my comments on this bill.

The first bill that's being repealed is one that, I think, sadly

shows how universities need to be funded, and that's *The Crown Foundations Act*. As the minister indicated in his opening comments to the bill on November 6th, he indicated that the bill was introduced to allow universities to take advantage of income tax treatment for donations made to charities and to the Crown. And at that time there was a different formula for the treatment of donations to universities. I guess since then, in 1996 there were changes made and the distinction was eliminated, that tax credit distinction. It was a valuable tax credit apparently, and now there's no more tax advantage gained from establishing that kind of foundation. So the minister has decided this Act does not need to continue.

However as we see today, the impact of restraint on spending at the universities is causing them to make some very difficult decisions, including the closure of the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus where I have spent many wonderful times through different arts organizations, including the Emma Lake fiddle camp, which ran there for 20 years, and also a blacksmithing camp for women where I was one of the . . . We called ourselves the sisters of fire.

At Emma Lake there's fiddling. There is blacksmithing, in addition to worldwide artists coming from New York for many, many years and making a name for Emma Lake in that area as well. Who knew, Mr. Speaker, that those kinds of things are actually available at the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus. The range of artistic activity that takes place is really astounding, and it's a huge loss to our cultural fabric in the province to lose the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus. The cafeteria there and the big fireplace in the central gathering space is one where I think many, many wonderful conversations and artistic, inspired works of art have been inspired.

And certainly the Emma Lake gathering of craft artisans for many years inspired all kinds of beautiful and original craft pieces that also worked on the notion of collaboration, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's another piece that will be lost, is the ability for artists to gather and share ideas, and that's truly the foundation I think of creativity and inspiration. And when universities are forced to close campuses like the Kenderdine Campus, it's really a closure of artistic opportunity here in the province, not only artistic opportunity but the college of biology has also . . . The biology group in the College of Arts & Science used that space for all kinds of university credit-type courses where students were actually out in the field doing biological work and learning and studying and again sharing ideas.

So when we lose that kind of institution in our universities, Mr. Speaker, it's a sign that there's really tough times ahead for universities. Perhaps rather than repealing this bill, the government might consider reintroducing it and allowing a tax advantage for people who donate to universities, although we know they're not really in favour of tax credits. But this is a case where it might be justifiable in order to ensure that things like the Kenderdine Campus continue to be available to the people of Saskatchewan and people from abroad.

I don't know if you're familiar with the Emma Lake artist group, where there's art coming from, particularly in the '60s, for a number of years. And it continues to this day. Well not now because it closed. But it has continued where artists have come from around the world and some of the leading-edge

paintings have come right out of the Kenderdine Campus — names like Dorothy Knowles, Ernie Lindner, and other Saskatchewan painters. Bill Perehudoff is another painter whose works have come from the Emma Lake artists group, and those works are recognized around the world, Mr. Speaker. So it's a real loss. And although our Minister of Advanced Education indicated earlier today that this is not the work of this government, I think it's the failure of action on the part of this government and the off-loading of debt onto the universities that is the direct result in the loss of this valuable campus.

Another bill that this miscellaneous statutes repeal is proposing to repeal, another Act, is *The Cut Knife Reference Act*. And that's an interesting bill just in and of its nature because it talks about taking out a space. The word Cut Knife is treated as one, and what the bill did is that whenever there was a reference to the word Cut Knife as two words — Cut space Knife — then it's essentially now the one word Cutknife. But apparently that's been dealt with in all other pieces of legislation, and so there is a need to repeal the bill because it's irrelevant.

And so that's just an interesting little bit of history, Mr. Speaker, as is the battle of Cut Knife, which I think is an interesting part of our history as well. So it's always nice to refer to the rich history of our province. And this bill is just an indication of how names are important and certainly getting it right is what we want. It's a valuable use of our Ministry of Justice staff to make sure that these spaces are dealt with in the appropriate way, so good work to them.

The next one that's being repealed is *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act*. And the speaker spoke briefly to that as well, and he said there that this is 100 years ago when this bill came in. It's a long time ago in our province's history, right at the beginning, near the beginning. And there was Acts that required municipalities to issue debentures with prescribed terms and levy rates for repayment. And that was passed in 1915, Mr. Speaker, so almost 100 years ago, and it gave municipalities the ability to extend the terms of the government.

So right now those are being dealt with through the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, and there's modern-day Acts that are dealing with financing and restructuring financing for municipalities. So now when they need extending of the terms, repayment terms, they can do that on the basis of current Acts. So here's a little bit of history that is no longer relevant, I guess, in terms of the modern operation of financing for municipalities, and the Minister of Justice is repealing that one as well.

He also, in section 5 of the miscellaneous statutes repeal bill, he's repealing or proposing to repeal *The Municipal Development and Loan (Saskatchewan) Act*. And the municipal development and loan, in his comments he indicated it was passed in 1964 to implement a federal Act. And this is where the federal government passed an Act allowing provinces to borrow monies from the feds and loan them to the municipalities for capital works. And apparently in 1983 the federal Act was repealed, rendering this legislation obsolete. So we are looking at 29 years later. It's been obsolete for 29 years, and this Ministry of Justice has seen fit to remove it from the books. Again I don't have any further comment on that one, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next one that the Minister of Justice is proposing to repeal is the municipality improvements assistance Act. And the municipality improvement assistance Act was passed in 1939. Again we're seeing some of our history here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I think that's one of the most interesting parts of these types of bills is we get a chance to comment and review on a bit of our past. And in this case it was passed in '39 to implement yet another federal bill which was the municipal improvements assistance Act.

And you can imagine in 1939 . . . I just watched a show last night on PBS [Public Broadcasting Service] about the dust bowl in the United States, and that was in those years from 1930 . . . Basically '35 is when the dust bowl hit the American Southwest. And those things really changed a lot of people's lives, and I know my own father speaks of seeing people moving past the farm. Our farm was on a municipal road, and he still remembers seeing people with all their personal belongings loaded up on a vehicle or a horse and carriage and moving away because of the dramatic conditions of the dirty thirties.

So obviously in those days that's when PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration] was established. There's all kinds of federal and governmental interventions, which is appropriate. That's what governments do is look after people when they're needy. And in that case it was the *Municipal Improvements Assistance Act*. And what that federal loan did was it gave loans to municipalities or power corporations, interestingly, across Canada for the construction of public works.

So it's again the sign of government supporting institutions and ensuring that they have the financial support they need and the ability to borrow, again the previous bill, for obtaining debentures in a way that they can operate successfully, even in times of extreme and critical need in the finances of the province and the federal government. And again that's not what we're seeing today when we see things like the Kenderdine campus being shut down and the University of Saskatchewan being financed beyond its ability.

There's a number of other bills in this Act that are also being repealed: *The NewGrade Energy Inc Act* and *The Sales on Consignment Act*. Again those are bills that don't have any more relevance for the current day, and that's why the minister is seeing fit, and his ministry, to repeal these Acts at this time.

So I think at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that would be the extent of my comments. I know my colleagues are going to want to comment on these bills as well and the little bit of history that they represent in our province. And perhaps we'll hear from some of our constituents about any concerns that may be held out there in reference to the repeal of these various Acts. But at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I propose to adjourn debate on Bill No. 53.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 53. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 54

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 54 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make a few remarks about Bill No. 54, *An Act to amend The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009*. Not a hugely long bill, Mr. Speaker, but an important one as it relates to law enforcement and relates to the situation that we often find ourselves in when there has been criminal activity; someone has been found guilty, and there is criminal activity, and it's necessary for results to be taken with respect to *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act*.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at this piece of legislation, the Minister of Justice highlighted a few important points in his second reading speech. And the points, Mr. Speaker, come out of information that I would assume is based on feedback or experiences that have been received from law enforcement officials and through the courts with respect to areas where the legislation had been working well and facilitated proper enforcement of *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act* and areas where there were some barriers and problems were identified.

[15:15]

So I think it's good when we have the opportunity on an ongoing basis to examine legislation, see what parts are working with respect to *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act*, and make necessary changes. But whenever changes are made, Mr. Speaker, it's important to ensure that the right balance is being struck. It's important to ensure that individual's rights are being protected, personal rights as well as property rights, Mr. Speaker. And it's important to ensure that the changes do in fact enhance the bill and enhance the enforcement of the Act. I think that's an important remark to make off the top before I get into some of the details.

When we think, Mr. Speaker, of crime when it's present in society, we need to ensure that we have the proper enforcement. We need to ensure that we have the proper consequences for individuals that are engaged in criminal activity. And most certainly that can't be the sole focus. We need to have a strong focus on prevention when it comes to crime. That needs to be there in the early years of individuals' lives and present so that we don't find ourselves in situations where people turn to a life of crime. So it's necessary to have a strong focus on prevention issues as it relates to people living productive lives and following the letter of the law.

We need strong policing, Mr. Speaker. That's crucial and key so that police officers have the ability to do their job, to carry out the laws, to do enforcement. And that's something that we commonly hear when we're speaking with constituents is that they want police officers to be able to do the work that they're

trained to do and have the resources available to them.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we also need the correct punishment. We need the correct consequences for actions, not in a vindictive sense, Mr. Speaker, but in a way that there's a deterrent provided and that in certain situations when property can be seized, or there's a legislative provision for that to occur, so that in certain circumstances the public system is able to recoup some costs when there is a legal property involved in criminal activity or with criminal activity or a legal property or earnings are realized through illegal activity.

A number of items identified by the minister's speech, Mr. Speaker, and the one area that the minister identifies is coming out of enforcement issues. And by the minister's words here in his second reading speech, he said:

The bill will amend the definition of instrument of unlawful activity. The change will make it clear that property used to engage in unlawful activity but that has not yet resulted in the acquisition or production of property may still be subject to forfeiture. Forfeiture could proceed if there is evidence of the likelihood that the activity will result in the acquisition or production of property or evidence of an intention on the part of the respondent to obtain such property.

And that was page 1788 of *Hansard* on November 6th.

Mr. Speaker, as I read that, I believe it's suggesting that what this change would allow for is that if there is property connected with criminal activity but not directly resulting from that critical activity, that it could be in fact within the realm of forfeiture. So perhaps one example could be if there was earnings that were being accumulated in order to perform a crime or to facilitate crime, Mr. Speaker, or if there was a pattern of behaviour and people have been convicted of other crimes, as I read this, I think it would widen the net so that more items could be under the possibility of forfeiture, I think.

So with that understanding, Mr. Speaker, it is important to ensure that we are striking the right balance between what law enforcement officers and the courts are able to achieve and also while at the same time respecting the rights of individuals. So that is an important balance to strike. So I would, Mr. Speaker, be interested in knowing — and perhaps committee will be an opportunity for us to pursue a line of questioning on this topic — but I would be interested, Mr. Speaker, to know what the range of consultation was with respect to this issue, if it was simply on the enforcement side or if there were other sources where opinion was received, to ensure that we are striking the right balance there.

Another component, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the seizure of property. And as the minister said in his second reading speech:

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also specifically authorize the director to make an application to the courts by statement of claim in addition to the existing ability to proceed by notice of motion. It will deal with the challenges of proof of ownership by removing the requirement to name the owner of the property as a party to an application in all cases and extend the period from 30 to 60 days during

which time the director can request an order to prevent the sale, transfer of property prior to bringing a forfeiture application. This change will also provide authority for the court to extend a restraining order for any further period the court views appropriate.

Again, from page 1788 of November 6th *Hansard*.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, what we see here is the loosening of the requirements with respect to proof of ownership where there could be a condition put on a piece of property. So in this situation, I would assume it might be a setting where there is property involved with a crime, but the property is not in the name of the individual performing the crime, but there's a connection between the property and the accused. And so I would imagine, Mr. Speaker — and again some more details from the minister on this would be good to know what instances are motivating or providing the impetus for this piece of legislation — but I can imagine a situation where someone might be turning a blind eye knowing that property is being used for a crime. And this would increase the people responsible, in a way, if a blind eye is being turned when a crime is being performed with property. And so it allows the enforcement side to put a hold on a property so that it can't be sold or transferred while the issue may be being addressed by the courts.

So again, whenever you have any sort of issue like this where you're widening the rules and making it easier to address pieces of property, it's important that we are striking the right balance. I'm not saying that this isn't striking the right balance, but I do think it warrants a bit more explanation so that we know that we are achieving desirable outcomes with the changes.

And a final component that I'll speak about, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the changes being brought forward in this amendment and amendments to *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act*, and this, Mr. Speaker, has to do with sealing orders. And the minister's remarks on this piece say:

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this bill will make procedural changes to provide for a sealing order regarding the respondents' affidavits, provided that evidence of a person that was not charged with an offence is not relevant in making a finding of fact in an application under the Act. It will address how the rules of court will apply to an application under the Act, including one made by way of statement of claim. It will provide that the limitation period commences when the director is satisfied that property is proceeds of unlawful activity or an instrument of unlawful activity rather than two years from the point of discovery. And it will provide that evidence is admissible based on information and belief in order to lessen the burden on testifying police officers.

So I apologize for the long quote, Mr. Speaker, but this would affect, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, providing more information and allowing for more opportunities when sealing orders would be appropriate, when information would be guarded and not shared with the public in order to facilitate a process and to make things go more smoothly. And, Mr. Speaker, it is identified as lessening the burden on testifying police officers, so to allow police officers to do other work and

not being tied necessarily to having to make court appearances and procedural matters as opposed to enforcing the law.

So it would seem, Mr. Speaker, again another item that is brought to the attention of the ministry based on the experience of enforcement and of police officers. So again it may be a good change, but it is, whenever information is being sealed, that is a concern for the public because we ought to operate in a manner that allows for as much transparency and openness as possible. So those are some points that I make on this amendment Act, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, it's good and necessary that we examine legislation and ensure that it is responsive to the current needs because situations do change. And like any piece of legislation, there may be things that do need adjusting. It would be good, Mr. Speaker, to have a bit more information from the minister with respect to what safeguards were put in place to ensure that the necessary balance is being achieved in this proposed legislation.

So perhaps we will have some questions in committee for him on that time. And we would also like the opportunity to speak with other individuals and other organizations to get their feedback on these proposed changes about how it may in their view make the legislation stronger or perhaps weaker. We obviously want legislation to always be stronger and more effective.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up and conclude my remarks on Bill No. 54, *An Act to amend The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009*. And I would move to adjourn debate on this piece of legislation. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 54, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Bill No. 55

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 55 — *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Pleasure to rise to participate in the debate around Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*.

Certainly there's a wide range of activity touched upon by this piece of legislation. And I guess, Mr. Speaker, when I think of consumer protection, I automatically think of something that had happened in the riding of Regina Elphinstone not too very long ago but as related to a particular travel agency that had a lot of people relying on it in terms of sales.

There's one very, very popular charity in town, Mr. Speaker, where there'd been a prize donated to that charity. And of course if you don't have the prize, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty hard for that charity to explain to the folks. And of course, you know, the good name of the charity was such that folks were relatively understanding, but there's a damage that comes to credibility through no fault of the folks that bought the travel package, Mr. Speaker. And of course they're left to sort through.

But in the case of this travel agency that went bankrupt, Mr. Speaker, before they did that of course, they took off in the middle of the night. The owner left various people on the hook for rent, for outstanding contracts with the agency, and of course people that had bought, had laid down fairly significant amounts of money to go on different trips, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know about you — maybe you're a bit more jet set than I — but certainly growing up in our family, the main mode of travel was usually in the McCall family station wagon, and plane trips to exotic locales, that was something that was very much out of our day-to-day or year-to-year experience, Mr. Speaker.

So I always think of the people that, you know, would be scrimping together the money — maybe they've got a dream to see a certain place on the globe — and again in terms of travel agencies and what kind of protections we have there for people that have put up that money to buy a ticket, to buy a travel package. I know that it caused a lot of hard feelings, caused a lot of hardship for people when this particular travel agency that again was headquartered in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, when it not just went into bankruptcy but when you had the owner unconscionably, Mr. Speaker, taking off in the middle of the night and, again as I say, leaving suppliers, the landlords, leaving different people high and dry in the process.

[15:30]

Well again, Mr. Speaker, there's a certain kind of restitution or recompense that you can seek through the legal system, be it in this case, Mr. Speaker, there were fraud charges levelled against the individual. And as part of the sentencing provision in the summer of 2010, Mr. Speaker, that individual had to pay back some of the monies that were outstanding to different individuals. And again I would commend the judge for the appropriateness of that particular measure in the punishment for this individual in terms of not just not living up to their end of the contract, Mr. Speaker, but for the fraud involved, the way that people had had their money taken, expecting a service and that not coming through.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of consumer protection and where we're at in terms of the legal oversight for business practices in this province, that is something that, you know, for me really brought home the need for good legislation in that regard and making sure that we've got the oversight and the penalties in place to not just put a stop to this kind of bad behaviour but to make sure that we've got the deterrents there as well.

I think of as well is we have a fair number of seniors in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Mr. Speaker, and certainly in my home neighbourhood of North Central there are still a fair number of

seniors. And the kind of sharp practices that certain door-to-door salespeople can engage in, and again it's . . . You know, I know for certain, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know your way around a doorstep. I certainly know my way around a doorstep, and I'd venture to say that most folks in this Assembly are familiar with what it's like to come walking up that front walk and knocking on the door. And it's a very immediate form of contact with people. It's a very intimate form of contact with people in terms of looking them in the eye and talking about what's important to them and different issues that they're facing. And certainly there's a gift to it.

It's an interesting way for people to pursue sales, Mr. Speaker. And again, you've got that . . . If you're a salesperson on that doorstep, you've got a pretty good indication as to what the competency is like of that person, what kind of situation they're in. And you know, we get a lot of concern raised about what happens with the telemarketers, and I'll get into that in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

But in terms of consumer protection legislation and what happens with people that are selling goods and services or selling home repairs or selling different things, Mr. Speaker, door to door, and perhaps in some cases attaching onto people that are too trusting or maybe not as on guard as they need to be, consumer protection legislation and oversight should be sort of the front line there for people to look to those protections that we should be putting together as a society, Mr. Speaker.

I think also about, you know, different sort of promotions that are made through the years around gym memberships. I've had the good fortune of dealing mostly with either the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker, or with the Regina YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association]. And I've never had the misfortune to encounter a gym membership that you pay for the service, and that service is expected, and you head to the gym the next day and lo and behold the doors are closed, Mr. Speaker. But again that's another place where consumer protection legislation needs to be up to the mark and serving to ensure that people are protected when they pay some money, to ensure that they've got a reasonable expectation not to have that money disappear in the middle of the night along with the owners, Mr. Speaker.

And again referring back to the case of the travel agency, where the judge that sentenced that individual, Mr. Speaker, there was an order made for restitution in terms of paying back some of the more egregiously large, outstanding amounts that individuals have been left with. But it would be interesting to know how this piece of legislation intersects with that and whether or not there's a way to make the legislation more responsive to it.

So I guess one of the things that we have in no small supply when it comes to this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is our questions. And how do we stack up to other provincial jurisdictions? What kind of work was done to reach out to those jurisdictions to find out what is working and what is not? And you know, even that, Mr. Speaker, suggests the interjurisdictional nature of these things. We've got, you know, work that's been done to enlist Saskatchewan in the New West Partnership agreement, Mr. Speaker, but what sort of cross-border protections do we have against corporations or organizations that be engaging in less than forthright, less than respectable, less than legal business

practices, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that again we've got that consumer protection in place.

I think about the different sort of licensing regimes that are in place, Mr. Speaker, that currently are, that do have force in Saskatchewan. And I think about other sort of activities that do not, and I'll be interested to see what sort of anticipation is made of recent changes in the city of Saskatoon, for example, Mr. Speaker, how that is anticipated by the legislation and whether or not this piece of legislation has force.

I'm interested to know . . . Certainly over the years there have been different stabs made at the question of housing and who's got oversight there, Mr. Speaker. Whether or not there was anything contemplated around the licensing of landlords, Mr. Speaker, or residential property under this piece of legislation, whether or not that was contemplated and for what grounds and how that reflected in this piece of legislation.

So again, Mr. Speaker, referring to the minister's second reading speech, again there's a fair amount of language around consolidation and updating and housekeeping work that has taken place, Mr. Speaker. And again, that's all fair enough. One of the things that we're always interested in, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not the good proclaimed intentions meet up to the letter of the legislation, and certainly we have a greater opportunity to do that in committee.

But for the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we've got a broader job of consultation to engage in on this piece of legislation in terms of getting out across the business community, across Saskatchewan, to talk to people and see what their take is on this. And if different problems that have arisen of late, Mr. Speaker, certainly this is a piece of legislation where technology plays a pretty significant role in terms of different ways that people and their situation gives rise to new and previously unanticipated measures for consumer protection. Certainly that technology is changing all the time.

I think about the flexibility that is anticipated in the legislation, according again to the minister's second reading speech and the different types of activity that are covered when it comes to consumer contracts, be it "Internet sales, future performance, personal development services, travel club, and remotely formed contracts." It'll be interesting to see how that plays out, Mr. Speaker, and whether or not the other types of contracts and the new so-called simple mechanism to do so, to cover new forms of activity, Mr. Speaker, whether or not that does in fact meet the simplicity test.

I guess the measures in the legislation, again responding to the different decisions coming from the Supreme Court of Canada wherein the minister references, "have caused us to add clarification to this section of the Act that prevents contracting out of the protections of the Act." Mr. Speaker, again if . . . It was a fairly succinct speech and, you know, that's appreciated more in this place than it might be in other venues, Mr. Speaker, but again in terms of what kind of . . . what instances form the basis of this new piece of legislation? What was the case law being brought forward? What sort of fealty is there between the precedent cited and the way that feeds them to process these, like the Uniform Law Conference, and then how is that actually playing out in the legislation, Mr. Speaker?

And again, the minister goes on to state that:

This provision has been enhanced to ensure that standard form contracts cannot tie consumers into arbitration clauses or prohibits them from participating in class actions. This will not prevent the consumer from selecting arbitration if that's the appropriate dispute resolution mechanism. However, Mr. Speaker, it becomes the consumer's choice, not the supplier's.

In and of itself, Mr. Speaker, that would seem on the face of it to be a good measure. Again, in terms of bolstering consumer choice when it comes to protection and ensuring that they're not being jammed into one when if you come into a situation where *The Consumer Protection Act* is involved and there's a need for remedies under the Act, it would, on the face of it, seem to make some good sense that a greater range of choice for the consumers under the Act and its proposed remedies would make some sense. I guess carrying on through the speech, Mr. Speaker, wherein the minister states, "Another small but important feature is the one that permits Saskatchewan courts to have jurisdiction over consumer actions, regardless of the part of the Act under which the consumer rights arise."

Again, modernizing the practice of the Act, Mr. Speaker, does seem to be fairly straightforward. But we'll be taking it out for a greater consultation. And to close off, wherein the minister states:

. . . the enforcement administration provisions have been moved to a part that applies to the whole Act. This will make it easier for the consumer protection division of the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan to do its job.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I've had limited experience but a largely positive experience with the authority, previously the consumer affairs branch. And again, sort of straightening out the Act to make it more responsive to the situations as they arise, making it more durable, more applicable to the situations as they arise to serve the very consumers that this Act sets out to protect and the business practices it seeks to regulate, that again, Mr. Speaker, would seem to be a good thing.

So to close, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*, second reading, it's been a pleasure to participate in this debate. We've got more consultation to engage in, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the measures of this Act and the way that the measures as proposed and stated, how that measures up all told. But for the moment, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 55. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

[15:45]

Bill No. 56

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 56 — *The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My pleasure to weigh in to debate as it relates to Bill No. 56, *An Act to amend The Court of Appeal Act, 2000* and to offer a few comments, maybe a couple of questions as it relates to the changes that have been put before us, to work through the changes that have been put before us.

I recognize that clause 3 of the bill put forward in a new subsection 5.1(1) allows Court of Appeal judges to participate in decisions for six months after leaving office on matters they've heard before leaving office. And then subsection (2) allows judges who are appointed to another level of court to finish hearing matters they were seized with prior to their new appointment, to participate in decisions on those matters.

Now as I read the rationale and purpose of these changes, I understand that this is to provide some level of continuance to decisions to allow the courts to operate in an effective manner to address a challenge that can arise that can present rehearings, Mr. Speaker. And I think that a practical measure to address the challenge of rehearings is more than reasonable for a government to act to respond. And certainly the measures that have been put forward on this front seem to be reasonable to do just that.

A rehearing of course, Mr. Speaker, impacts all parties and impacts them by way of cost and also time, but cost is a significant factor. And when you think of whether it's the legal fees themselves or the time that one may be away from work or the time that one is focused in such a proceeding within their own life, it's more than reasonable to do what we can to reduce the number of rehearings. I know that the minister has suggested here that this should largely eliminate rehearings, and certainly from a practical nature and on first blush and first consideration that seems to be more than reasonable. Certainly we will be doing our due diligence on this file in making sure that the intended consequences don't result in any unintended consequences.

We'll be doing so, consulting with the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Saskatchewan, making sure that there's not some concerns that haven't been considered by the minister or by government in deriving this legislation. But certainly the provisions as it relates to addressing and reducing rehearings are reasonable and something that I tend to be supportive of. It certainly does seem to allow an effective court process and allow judges to continue on with cases. And you know, whether they've retired or whether they've taken another office and they're departing their post, it puts it in their court to be able to continue to make sure that a decision can be brought to the parties involved in hearings or processes that they've been engaged with. So that seems more than reasonable.

I guess rehearings would potentially occur in the case of illness of a justice or death or as well as by choice, if a judge is leaving to take another office but chooses not to continue on. So that would be under these changes that have been made, where rehearings may still be a part of the consideration.

What I understand is that these changes, Mr. Speaker, bring us more in line with practice in other jurisdictions in other provinces, and that I believe that the actual six-month period is a period that's been chosen by many other provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker. And other provinces I believe have up to a 90-day period, and we've chosen the six-month period. Certainly it'll be part of our consultation with stakeholders, to ensure that this cuts the right balance and offers the right level of supports.

There's also provisions that are put forward that support the effective court processes and the continuance of processes and working towards a decision that would be reflected with some of the changes to quorum, that would allow quorum to continue in the circumstances here where a judge may be moving posts or moving offices or also ill or not well and not able to continue in that capacity. Again this is important for us to make sure that we're allowing our courts to be as effective as they can be, and certainly reducing rehearings is something that I would tend to be supportive of.

And then there's other changes by way of clause no. 5. That deals more directly with making changes to address rehearings directly. So I think at first consideration, certainly the motivations of this legislation are something that I can support. Certainly through our consultation in the days and weeks ahead with stakeholders, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Bar Association, we'll be ensuring that there's not some unintended consequences of this legislation, making sure that this legislation was derived out of consultation, as good policy must, Mr. Speaker. And that'll be our aim over the course of the coming days and weeks. We may have further questions as we go, both in this Assembly but also in committee, Mr. Speaker.

But at this point in time I don't have much else to say other than certainly being able to support our courts to operate as effectively as they can and being able to put some provisions in place for judges that are departing to continue to hear the cases for which they've been engaged is more than reasonable. It seems that being able to go at addressing rehearings and reduce rehearings in this province are of benefit to all parties and something that we can support.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, and it seems that we're in line with many other provinces all across Canada, and I hope that we've consulted and learned from their experience on this front. And I'm sure that we have. So at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 56, *An Act to amend The Court of Appeal Act, 2000*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 56, *The Court of Appeal 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. 57

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 57 — *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to enter the debate on Bill No. 57, *An Act to amend The Condominium Property Act*. What this bill sets out to do, and as the minister said in his second reading remarks, there were four main areas that the minister has said this covers, and it speaks to consumer protection, dispute resolution, condo conversions, and insurance, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Around consumer protection, I know the minister has said that there's been a great deal of consultation that's gone on around this bill. But on this side of the House we always have some concern when the government talks about consultation and their lack of it, but he has assured us in this bill that a great deal of consultation has gone on.

But in terms of consumer protection, what this Bill proposes to do is it's being amended to require a declaration from a developer describing the improvements to the common property that are promised as part of a condo conversion. Apparently what has happened in the past is if someone purchases a unit and that they find out when they move in that there's a huge number of costs involved now at that point in time in terms of renovations to the building . . . Actually I know I had a constituent, a long-time, a lifelong constituent actually, who lived in Saskatoon Riversdale and just, well down the street from my parents' house and just a few blocks from me. I went to school with his son actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He left Saskatoon Riversdale last year, sadly, Mr. Speaker, he and his wife. And they've moved in a condo. And shortly after moving into the condo, they discovered in fact that the condo board had some expectations. There were some huge capital issues with the building that they hadn't been told about prior to moving in. So this couple, the senior citizens, move into a building and discover that now that there's going to be an increased cost to them, having left their long-time home on Avenue O South and now moving somewhere else. They're huge, huge expenses for them, Mr. Speaker. So that piece around the bill makes sense to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The second area that the minister has talked about is dispute resolution and needing some new mechanisms in the Act.

The third piece is condo conversions, which actually in Saskatoon the issue of condo conversions has been a huge issue, probably really peaking in about 2007, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What has happened is some older buildings have been converted into condos and thus leaving the people who are renting those buildings basically out on the streets and not being able to afford to move into those, having no purchasing power,

no ability to actually stay in the building that was their home. They can't. They're not in a position to buy, so they've been left to try to find something else to rent. But as we know, the rental rates are a huge problem here in Saskatchewan and continue to be a challenge.

I know in my own constituency I have families . . . Because there's a lack of affordable and appropriate housing for so many people. The costs are often exorbitant too as well. So it definitely is a supply and demand issue. But what I see in my own constituency, in houses, modest houses, 800, 900 square feet, multiple families living in a house that was meant for one family.

This puts huge pressure on — they're often younger families — huge pressure on the children, the parents, everybody, and which impacts actually school outcomes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. How can you, if you don't have, not necessarily your own bedroom . . . I grew up in a family of seven and there were three girls in one bedroom in my household. So it's not a matter of kids just having their own bedroom in a huge house and a giant bedroom to themselves. But these families, where you have multiple families living in a home meant for one family, as I said, 8 or 900 square feet, it puts intense pressure on the ability for privacy, the ability for quiet time to do homework — some enormous strains on families. And then the cost of renting is very difficult for many families too, so they discover that they can't afford to live in a place anymore. So they end up pulling their kids from the school that their kids started at at the beginning of the year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and have struggles going from school to school to school and not being able to put roots down.

So one of the parts of the bill, it lays out that condo conversions won't take place unless . . . or there's the vacancy rate has to be set at a prescribed level. So I was pleased in the minister's remarks that he says:

It is expected that the prescribed rate will be linked to the results of the rental vacancy survey conducted by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on a quarterly basis for areas where this information is available.

So I'm assuming that that will be in the regulations. It's important. And I'm curious too if this is something that will be laid out in the regulations that will in fact . . . So those reports come out quarterly? Will the regulations be designed to be responsive to that reality that conversions cannot happen unless the prescribed vacancy rate is at this point? And I hope that it is on a quarterly basis that the regulations lay that out to be.

I know the fourth piece of the Act was around insurance, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's many pieces to this Act, but I know the minister highlighted four main areas. And one of them was requiring condominium corporations to carry directors' and officers' liability insurance. Apparently they heard in consultations that it's sometimes difficult to get people to stand for election to the board because they are concerned that they are assuming liability for the decisions of the board. So there was the hope that this amendment should alleviate the concerns and encourage those who are part of the condominium facility to join the board.

I know the minister also in his remarks had outlined that this obviously . . . has said this bill is designed to resolve some housing problems around condominiums. But I would say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this bill is only one piece around solving housing problems. Again in Saskatoon Riversdale we have affordable housing, some beautiful new affordable housing on 20th street and Avenue P that sits vacant because even with the purchasing incentives, Mr. Deputy Speaker, people still can't afford to purchase these homes. So these places sit vacant.

[16:00]

So when you look at the housing continuum, you've got social housing on one end. You've got affordable housing in the middle, and then you've got market-based housing as you go along. And the reality is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this government has focused its energy on affordable housing, but the piece that's been ignored is social housing. And that is a huge, huge impact to many people that I work with and see on a daily basis, and I know my colleagues do as well. The reality is, when you talk about affordable housing, a \$220,000 condo is not affordable to many people in Saskatoon Riversdale, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They cannot come up with the down payment. Even with incentives, the wonderful incentives that the city has supported to put in place, people still can't afford to purchase these places.

So I would encourage the government to look at the social, look at that aspect on the housing continuum and look at social housing. Rather than selling off 300 units and selling off a chunk of land, I would encourage this government that there is a role for government to be building housing. And I think at the rate we're going right now, the reality is there are still people struggling with housing issues. The cost of housing does not . . . takes a huge chunk of people's monthly income, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which does not leave a lot else for paying your bills — your heating, your water, all your utilities — and putting food on your table and just the things that people have to pay for.

So I think I would actually encourage the government to look at a model that hasn't been pursued at all. Again in Saskatoon Riversdale, we have a wonderful Sask Housing model that . . . Arbor Green, which is in Holiday Park, was built now 11 years ago. They just celebrated their 10th anniversary last year. And it's a life lease for seniors. And what had ended up happening? How did it come about? The community or people in the community who wanted to stay in Holiday Park or on the west side committed to purchasing units, and the government at the time, through Sask Housing, also invested in the capital infrastructure of the building. It's a wonderful model, and it's in a beautiful area, and there actually . . . I know folks in that neighbourhood would love to see a second Arbor Green built. But it's a great alternative for many seniors who are looking for housing. They'd like to take the equity from their home and be able to keep it invested in something and continue to live in the community that they've called home for many, many years.

So I'm not quite sure why the government hasn't looked at some of these other models for fostering housing and has simply relied on developing, encouraging developers simply to carry the ball on that. I firmly believe that the government has a role to play in developing some housing.

I think it's great that the government wants to solve some of the issues around condo conversions and some of the other problems and challenges condo owners and people living in condos have faced. But I think when we talk about a government's record on housing, this is a government who won't even talk about housing first or truly committing to a model where the first primary need is ensuring that someone has a stable roof over their head, and then they can deal with any struggles or challenges they might be facing, whether it's addictions or mental health challenges. So I would like to see a government not just introduce a bill that addresses condo changes, but I'd like to see a government really tackling the essence of where some of our housing issues begin, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that I would like — I know that my colleagues will have further comments on Bill No. 57, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012* — but with that for now I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 57. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Bill No. 58

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 58 — *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate here this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*.

I've spent some time reading through the minister's remarks and spent some time analyzing the legislation before us, but I've also spent significant time taking a look at the committee of review's work that should be the impetus for this piece of legislation. That's some of the analysis that we're going to be doing over the coming days and weeks and possibly months, Mr. Speaker, because this is a very important piece of legislation and should reflect the good work and hard work of the committee of review and as well the importance of this legislation and the importance of the Workers' Compensation Board to employees and to employers all across Saskatchewan. And maybe that's just where I would start.

The Workers' Compensation Board is such a vital and important mechanism to provide supports for workers and also to employers. And if we think of all the different circumstances where an employee, for one . . . And I know when thinking across my own constituency and family for that matter, thinking of if a work-related injury has occurred in one's life, it certainly has a direct impact on the well-being of one's self — peace of mind, family, all the different circumstances from a social to an economic perspective. And that's why the Workers'

Compensation Board and its Act are both very important tools to the people of Saskatchewan, and I'd argue mechanisms and tools for which we have to foster a level of continuous improvement and working hard to do better for the people of the province and the important role this plays to employers and to our economy as a whole as well.

Maybe just to start off, I would like to recognize the very good work of the committee of review that went out and held hearings all across the province, held consultations, listened to Saskatchewan employees and employers and then brought forward recommendations — did a report, did analysis, did study — and brought forward a report that should be the impetus that's driving these legislative changes, something that we're going to make sure in fact does correlate, make sure that in fact the good work of the committee of review and the recommendations that I have in my hand here today, the final report that was submitted in 2011, Mr. Speaker, that that in fact is consistent with changes that have been put forward in Bill No. 58 that has been introduced to this Assembly.

That's a very important piece because the very process of the committee of review is a very even-handed process, one that we should support, one that should actually serve as a model to this government as it drives other pieces of legislation and particularly as it relates to labour legislation. And it may serve as a very helpful model for a government that has not been even-handed on any other fronts as it relates to labour legislation. And maybe this is one small example that this government could draw upon about how to go about engaging in meaningful dialogue with Saskatchewan people, employers, and workers and working with that co-operative, common sense approach that Saskatchewan people and workers deserve and expect, Mr. Speaker.

And quite frankly, it's that sort of consultive process that drives good legislation, that reflects the realities of workers and employers and makes sure as well that there's been thoughtful consideration of not only the intended consequences but the unintended consequences. And when I think back to this government's record in driving labour legislative changes that have been anything but fair and balanced and certainly against the interests of workers all across this province and communities in every region of this province, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is the sort of process and the sort of model that we should be adopting and following when considering changes.

But I would like to recognize the good work of the committee of review. It represents . . . It's a six-member panel representing employees and employers. Those individuals would include Dale Lindemann, Shelly McFadden, Lori Sali, Craig McAuley, Marg Romanow, and Kaylynn Schroeder. I'd like to say thank you to each of those individuals along with Dr. Roslyn Kunin for the work that they provided the people of the province, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, in going out and holding meetings, listening to the public, listening to employers, listening to workers, and putting forward in the end, I believe, 57 recommendations, Mr. Speaker, all with an aim to provide improvements in a fair and balanced way to make sure that our Workers' Compensation Board is as effective as it can be.

Now some of the work, the important work, for us over the

coming days and weeks is continuing the consultation process with all stakeholders to make sure that, as I say, what's been reflected in that report, what's been recommended, what's best practice, is now reflected in this legislation. We're not certain that that's the case at this point in time or not. I know I've gleaned from the minister's comments, the minister had brief remarks when he introduced this legislation, so really, you know, the devil's in the details on this sort of legislation. And we really want to be thorough and thoughtful as we review and analyze this legislation. And for that, we'll be doing that with Saskatchewan people and employers and employees in making sure those interests are served.

The minister himself talks about increasing benefits and adjusting them annually through indexation. Certainly at first blush this is reflective, I believe, of the work of the committee of review, and something that makes sense for Saskatchewan people. There's an adjustment here to maximum wage rates, and this is important because certainly the cost of living in our fine province has significantly increased over the past few years and has been a hardship to many on fixed or limited incomes. And certainly providing an increase to the maximum benefit is important, as are provisions to allow that to occur incrementally as we move forward.

So I see measures that have been put forward to do that here in the bill. I want to ensure that that's consistent with what's been put forward by the committee of review by way of their recommendations. I'm not sure that that's the case. And I want to make sure that it's providing the sort of protection and certainty and security that Saskatchewan workers deserve and require. And so we'll be doing some analysis around the adequacy of the actual numbers, but certainly supportive of an increase to the maximum wage rate and a mechanism to ensure that incrementally those are improved moving forward.

I recognize that there's a fine that's been increased up to — an administrative penalty to employers — up to \$10,000 that would be in breach of their obligations under the Act. And certainly this is important, and this may be of improper disclosure or non-disclosure of injuries as described and required through the Act. And this is the kind of . . . this is important for us to have the penalty and the fine in place.

I guess I might have question around the \$10,000 and what exact analysis has derived that penalty as the right amount — as a proper impediment I guess, if you will — to make sure that employers are consistent with the Act. But certainly it's very important that we recognize the important role that our employers provide to worker safety all across this province, and many employers who go over and above to do so. But in sadly too many other cases, Mr. Speaker, all across this province, where that isn't the case and where we're putting the safety of workers and families into jeopardy and where of course we also see injury and loss, Mr. Speaker, that's quite frankly unacceptable.

When I'm thinking about this Act and the role of the Workers' Compensation Board, I think of those injured workers that require support, that are not able to fulfill the work that they were carrying on and are limited from a financial perspective and the important protections we must provide those families. But I also think of when we stand each year and recognize those

that have lost their lives, the day of mourning Act and the ceremonies. And sadly we still have far too many workers in this province that are both injured but also that lose their life here in this province, and certainly we need to be strident in making changes on this front.

I know that in many ways we have an Act that's in place, but we have an inadequate number of officers to provide the kind of support for *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*. And this is something that we really do need to be pushing towards to make sure that we actually are increasing the number of officers to make sure we're ensuring safety in the workplaces. And I know it's a continued frustration, and I know this isn't the specific Act, but the fact that farm workers aren't included in the day of mourning Act and that certainly there is a lot of risk presented in farm work as well, and we need to pay continued attention to those that are injured and lose their lives through work on the farm.

I know I recognize changes here of a practical nature to increase the borrowing limit for Workers' Compensation Board, I'm going to be reviewing the full rationale on that front. Certainly as suggested by the minister, this is something that provides flexibility to the organizations, to the Workers' Compensation Board, and certainly something that I'm sure is quite reasonable. The minister has spoken of provisions that support the Return to Work program, and this is an important program that we do need to support. We want to make sure that it's being supported in a way that's in the best interests of all parties and certainly the workers and making sure they can in fact return to dignified employment that allows them to sustain quality of life for them and their families.

[16:15]

Moving through a little bit more, I know the minister spoke about internal processes that have been codified and strengthened by the Act here and, I guess, supporting the internal ombudsman to make sure that proper appeals are able to be made. And I know this is something that's important. And I know many of us as MLAs will have been dealing with many cases and constituents who have appeals, and we really do need to make sure that we're dealing with these in a fair and effective way, in a balanced way and an effective way. And many of the individuals that are going through these appeals are at a great deal of stress financially, emotionally, socially and just making sure that the changes that have been made are in fact as effective as they can be. And I want to make sure as well, as we review this, that in fact they are reflective of the committee of review's recommendations that have been put forward.

I know that we also look at this legislation that's suggested by the minister that there is some modernization of language in this bill, and that's important, some refinements to make sure that we're consistent with language used in other Acts and by government, and that's important.

So I guess what I would say is that there has been really important work done by a committee of review. There is an important body of work that's been submitted to us here at the legislature by way of *The Workers' Compensation Act* committee of review final report of 2011. But what we now need to make sure is that the changes that are being made in fact

reflect this document and the 57 recommendations that are important to workers and to those that are injured and to employers across this province, making sure that they're consistent, making sure that the legislation is bringing forward changes that are going to allow us be successful in addressing the intended consequences that we pursue, but not bringing about unintended consequences that haven't been considered.

And that's where that consultive process is so important, not just in deriving the recommendations that are required, but then also in making sure that the Act is as effective as it can be. And I guess, you know, when I'm looking again at the Workers' Compensation Board and the review and the six-member panel that's gone out and done consultations all across our province, that's listened to workers and employers, Mr. Speaker, this embodies the way that labour legislation should be built in this province. This reflects how legislation should be built and hopefully would serve as a model to a government that has been anything but consultive on so many other fronts, Mr. Speaker, but maybe most notably as it relates to legislation that impacts workers, families, livelihoods, Mr. Speaker.

So I think that hopefully what we would see is that this would inspire an approach from government that's consistent with that consultive fashion, but I say that at the same time as we're waiting for, so many are waiting for this labour legislation that looms before us, this overhaul of the 15 Acts that govern workers' protection and workers' rights in this province, that's been done so with something that's been quite frankly a joke of a consultation, Mr. Speaker, and something that certainly hasn't allowed the workers of this province to have their rightful say into legislation that has the greatest impact on them and their lives.

And that's why I certainly was pleased to participate, along with our caucus, to go out and hold your work, your say hearings held by our Labour critic, the member from Saskatoon Centre and attended by members, every one of the members of this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to go out and have that conversation and consultation that was never had with the workers of this province, Mr. Speaker.

And when we're talking about rolling together, as this government is, and overhauling labour legislation, Mr. Speaker, that's been built out of co-operation, Mr. Speaker, by workers and by employers in well over 100 years in this province and in an overhaul without any consultation by government, or inadequate consultation, it's a sad day on this point, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why I point to the Workers' Compensation Board and the committee of review process that should serve as an example that could be followed by government. And that's why I think there's very important changes that have been recommended here, and hopefully the bill is consistent with those recommendations, in which case we'd certainly be supportive of those changes.

But we would urge that approach from government on other fronts, and I know that there's a lot of anxiety across Saskatchewan right now awaiting the legislative changes to workers' rights in this province and certainly a government that's actively worked against the best interests of workers in

this province, Mr. Speaker. And in our province, as has been pointed out by our Labour critic, in a province that has the second highest injury rate, Mr. Speaker, we need to be working to protect the workers of this province and make sure that the working families of this province in every community are able to share in the prosperity of our province.

It's not good enough for government to boast about numbers on a page, Mr. Speaker. We have to do a better job, a better job of making sure that the families — the very workers who are doing the heavy lifting in our economy; they're doing the heavy lifting within our health services or are doing the work in our classrooms; who are doing work all across this province, in our farm economy and in our mineral extraction economy — are able to share in that prosperity. And sadly we have, you know, this government that has failed to consult and has certainly actively worked against the interests of those workers all across this province and, I would argue, worked against the interests of building a strong local economy in doing so, Mr. Speaker.

But I wouldn't want to take away from the good work that's been done by the committee of review for the Workers' Compensation Board Act to be improved. I know the report that came forward in 2011 was an important document. It sat on a desk for some period of time. It's before us here now. We're certainly going to make sure we're doing our due diligence with all stakeholders to make sure that this document in fact is a reflection of the committee of review recommendations, 57 recommendations to provide improvements to the Workers' Compensation Board — but also making sure then, through those consultations, that the very tools that the Act is bringing forward are in fact the most effective way of going at implementing those recommendations.

But at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to thank those that have been involved in the committee of review. I'd like to highlight the importance of the Workers' Compensation Board to families, to employers, to our workers, and to our economy, Mr. Speaker, but also to highlight that it certainly is a proud mechanism but one that we need to continuously improve and one that we need to make sure is serving workers of today and our economy of today. And hopefully some of these changes are bringing about those sorts of changes.

So at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, 57 recommendations that have been put forward, 57 recommendations from the six-member panel, we're hoping that they're reflected there. But it's my pleasure to weigh in on debate here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. We have further consultation. We have further questions, as do workers.

We hope that this will serve as a model of how to build legislation in this province, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to a government that believes it knows best and rams forward, creating legislation that pursues its own ideology as opposed to the interests of workers in this province. That denies too many across this province from sharing in the prosperity, rightful prosperity of our province, and that has given us the shameful distinction, Mr. Speaker, of having legislation, workers' legislation on the books, Mr. Speaker, that's unconstitutional. Shameful recognition from a province that was once a leader, Mr. Speaker, in providing labour legislation that was fair and balanced and progressive and serving the best interests of our

local economy and of workers, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I'm being heckled by the Minister of Labour. What I'd be more interested is when he introduces a piece of legislation that impacts such an important body to our province or mechanism, being the Workers' Compensation Board, that he'd have more to say than just, you know, a short few words of introduction with about four or five items to speak to as opposed to the significant body of work that's been done by the committee of review in consultation with Saskatchewan people.

But that's the same Labour minister, Mr. Speaker, that has found that — you know, last week I believe, at the end of the week — when we have labour legislation changes that are looming over many in this province and a real sense of anxiety for many workers and many communities and many families, Mr. Speaker, we have a Labour minister who stood in this Assembly on Thursday of last week and didn't know any of the changes, Mr. Speaker, pretended not to know any of the changes that were going to be brought forward but the next day, Mr. Speaker, was out sort of at a business event where people bought a ticket to come out to listen to the changes that are being brought forward. So I would suggest that that's less than a sincere process, Mr. Speaker, to derive labour legislation.

I urge the minister to make sure that the legislation he's going to be bringing forward is reflective of the interests of workers in this province. Sadly we're concerned that it won't be, Mr. Speaker, because we've certainly watched the actions of government to date that have certainly been opposed to workers' interests and opposed to families' and local economies' interests, Mr. Speaker, by way of changes to date. But we'll have many more questions throughout our consultation.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate as it relates to Bill No. 58, *An Act respecting Compensation for Injured Workers and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 59

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 59 — *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and make some comments about Bill No. 59, *An Act to amend The Animal Identification Act*. For the general public, this is talking about brands on animals and other methods of identifying animals that are part of our agricultural and ranching businesses in the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, the minister stated quite clearly that this particular piece of legislation is designed to allow for some other methods of providing this service of animal identification to the cattle industry, or the animal industry, besides what we presently have. The present system is primarily one that is operated through the department or the Ministry of Agriculture and this particular legislation will allow for the contracting out of this service to a third party. And so when you go and look at the legislation itself, that is the basic point that's here, is this contracting out of the task.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the way that this is done is obviously not set out in the legislation because there are a number of ways that this whole area of services can be controlled. But what it will do is allow the industry to control that.

Now this is something that we would not be opposed to on this side of the House. Over the years the New Democratic Party governments have worked with the cattle industry, and many of us who have been NDP elected people have owned cattle ourselves so we know about the issues that are involved here.

And one of the positive things about this particular legislation is that the minister appears to have worked with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. And as a member of the legislature who has had relatives involved with both of those organizations, I would say that there are some very capable people there who have provided some good advice to the minister and to the department.

And I think the other positive aspect of this legislation relates to the fact that there has been a committee established that looked at the whole issue of how there could be an integrated Western Canadian approach. And, Mr. Speaker, this is usually an important thing to do and I assume, and I recognize the information provided also shows that there has been contact by those people involved with our friends south of the 49th parallel in the United States. Because as we know, many of the cattle identification issues actually relate to the transfer of cattle in the process of the development of the meat product I guess, if we can put it that way.

[16:30]

And so, Mr. Speaker, what is this legislation trying to do? Well basically it's allowing for what the Act itself calls an animal identification inspection administration agreement. I'm sure they had a bit of fun trying to figure out that term and I'm not sure if they will attempt to shorten it by calling it Aida because it might get confused with the opera. But practically, it's the whole process of how this work is going to be done.

At this stage there appear to be some suggestions as to how it would be done, but we will be watching this process as it develops over the coming months. And practically anybody who has cattle especially appreciates the fact that this process will be similar or the same right across Western Canada and hopefully into the northern states so that there will not be any issues around the identification of the animals, identification of the cattle. And that is clearly the intention.

So what does the legislation do? Well basically it takes the

existing Act and amends it, modernizes it to reflect this. And obviously the most important thing is allowing a third party to do the work that traditionally has been done by the ministry or employees, although I think there have been some aspects of it that have been done by others on an assignment of the work to the individual or an agency. So that is the first aspect of how this works.

And then it does confirm what I think all people in this province want, is that the minister and the ministry will be ultimately responsible for all of the matters related to animal identification and inspection. And practically, this legislation meshes together with the following piece of legislation which we'll be talking about in a while to make sure that the product safety will, rules will apply in a way that make sure that the ultimate product is one that the public can trust. And that's a perfectly logical reason for legislation. And we need to ask questions and make sure we understand how this is going to be done. We don't want any gaps. We don't want a situation where people do not trust what the processes are that are being used.

And so the legislation that we've received does leave that ultimate responsibility with the minister. And we know that our ministers of Agriculture over the years have taken especially strong interest in making sure that the products from Saskatchewan cattle industry or other animal industries have been the best.

Now it is curious to me that last year we got to talk about the piece of legislation which was repealed, which had been introduced about 10 or 12 years ago as it related to the certification of quality of food coming from a specific area. And the way that I described it was, it was we know when we go to the store to buy a bottle of wine, if you see wine that says VQA [Vintners Quality Alliance] on it, vintners quality assurance, you know that that product has come from a certain place and that it's been assessed and assured by the department of agriculture, department of food in the particular jurisdiction to have that clarity as to its origin and to its quality.

And we had legislation like that until last year when the Sask Party government brought it forward to repeal it. And one of the reasons that they brought it forward for repeal was the fact that the federal government was going to be responsible for that particular activity.

Now this legislation, and I think the comments of the minister as it relates to the following piece of legislation when you look at it, shows that there's been some shifting or changing in the national policy around both the identification and inspection of meat products. And so that Saskatchewan brand or that Saskatchewan . . . or even want to say, you know, Assiniboia brand or brand from the Saskatchewan River Valley or wherever you would want to do it, that concept which was there a number of years ago may have to be reintroduced to tie it in together with legislation like this particular legislation.

And I think, looking at the wording that we have in Bill No. 59, it does have the opportunity to mesh together with what would be called the terroir legislation or legislation that relates to the land and the product of the land so that somebody could market and sell beef probably at a higher rate or a higher cost but also a higher benefit to the producer by saying that it comes from a

certain part of Saskatchewan and it's certified to come from there. And the identification information that is part of this Bill 59 has allowed us to assure you that that particular animal has actually been raised in that area or in a number of areas that would allow it to qualify for a special designation.

So I think that that's important as we move forward in a world where people are concerned about where their food comes from and so much as it, on the face of it, seems to be quite a simple bill and a simple proposal which is a positive proposal. It has the aspects of providing that identification and, if I can use the word, tracking of where our food comes from.

And so, Mr. Speaker, if there are areas with, after review with some of the people who are involved in using this type of legislation where some of the tracking parts aren't as clear as they could be, it is possible that in the spring we would have some suggestions that would come, maybe from the same groups that the minister has talked to, about how we could further strengthen the legislation to make sure that the possibility of very clear identification of actually where a particular animal has been raised and then ultimately slaughtered is part of the marketing of the meat product from that particular animal. So I think in the legislation itself, the actual wording is that the minister would have the ability to add further regulations on required actions, but there may be some things that we find out about that should be added into this before the bill is finally approved.

So when this type of legislation is brought forward, as the minister stated, it comes forward from the industry because they know what things work the best for the producer in their area, but I think we also have to recognize that there are things that can be learned from other jurisdictions. And so we know, in this time of worldwide supply of food, that we have agreements with other countries and with other continents where specific provisions around animal identification and the resulting tracking and inspection of the meat product, where there may be required even more stringent provisions that are set out in this legislation. And I'm not entirely clear from what we have here whether that particular aspect of the process has been included in the drafting of the legislation.

I think we should be able to get some answers about that when we get into committee, dealing with the officials. But I know that we will be talking to people within the industry to make sure that some of the things that they've heard about, whether it relates to the European market or whether it relates to the Chinese market, the Korean market, Japanese market, that the ways that we identify animals do meet any kind of tests that they have.

And I've saved the description about what happens in the United States for its own little description. We know that many times the movement of meat product into the United States can run into interesting hurdles around identification of the meat or the animal or inspection of the meat. And as we know from September, it was the actual inspection of meat going into the United States that allowed for the protection of all the people who were consuming meat from the XL meat plant in Alberta.

So, Mr. Speaker, in this particular legislation, I think it's crucial that all of the provisions are here that would make sure that

there is no ability to mess, I guess would be one word or game the system around the identification of particular animals.

And we all know the stories over the last, I guess, decades or maybe even centuries around brands and the issues that arise with manipulation of brands. I know I spent some time down in the Big Muddy area. And one of the discussions when you have the official tour of the Big Muddy is about how brands could be amended — much like legislation could be amended — but brands could be amended to change their identification so all of a sudden they maybe have a Canadian identification when they were brought up sort of surreptitiously from the States or going the other way, and that applied to horses and to cattle and everything else.

And so this is modern legislation. I assume it may have ways of doing the identification through DNA [deoxyribonucleic acid] or through other . . . I know electronic implants and things like that. And the wording appears to cover those broad range of ways of identifying animals that we have right now. But we know that there will be people who for various reasons will want to try to get around the rules that are there.

And so I think that we need to watch this legislation very carefully. We need to listen carefully to the good advice that we get from the people within the industry. We also need to obviously listen to the people whose job it is to enforce issues around the criminal provisions against cattle rustling or stealing of animals to make sure that they will have sufficient proof if there's a case that goes to court.

And so there are a number of people who have interests in this legislation besides the stock growers or other organization that the minister has consulted with, but we assume that he'll have information when we get to committee about some of the other groups involved to make sure that the legislation is the best that is possible so that our Saskatchewan products and our Saskatchewan producers can be available.

So as we've heard, the Minister of Agriculture once a year gets to burn the brand at Agribition. And I assume that he maybe will talk about this particular legislation in recognizing that, you know, five years from now the burning of that brand might be doing a DNA tissue sample to make sure that that particular animal is monitored right through the whole system in a very different way than what our friends and relatives have been doing over the last number of years. So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that legislation meet the needs of society now but also anticipate the needs of society in the years to come. I think the attempt has been made to do that here, but we will end up having some more questions. And I know that some of my colleagues will have some comments about this as the legislation moves forward.

It's important legislation and it's important for each of us because we — most of us — are interested in the products that come from the animals identified. And I think that all Saskatchewan people, all Canadian people want to make sure that our system works well so that we have very good Saskatchewan food available for everyone. With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on this particular bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved to adjourn debate on 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 Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

[16:45]

Bill No. 60

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 60 — *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to now rise and continue my conversation about animal products. And I'm going to talk about Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act*.

And I think the crucial point here that we need to start out with is when the Minister of Agriculture made his comments on November 13th. He said that in June 2011, the federal government made it clear to the province of Saskatchewan that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was going to stop providing services to the province of Saskatchewan for the provincially-inspected facilities and that this service was going to end on December 31st, 2013. And I think this is a bit of a surprise to all Canadians that our federal government has made the moves that they have as it relates to food inspection given that, over the years, the Canadian standards, the Canadian . . . the standards around food quality were effectively managed or set by the federal Health ministry together with any of the federal agencies in agriculture. And so when this announcement was made just over a year ago, there were a number of jurisdictions that were surprised.

Now one of the things that is true about Saskatchewan is that it appears we're continuing to work with the federal government to see if they will perhaps change or adjust their decision around getting out of the whole meat inspection business. Because I think that having national standards and having that Canada inspection seal is good for Saskatchewan, but it's also good for Canada and internationally that there is this type of inspection.

Now it appears fairly clear that our federal government is attempting to get out of all kinds of areas where they've traditionally been taking the responsibility, and this is clearly another one. I think that our Minister of Agriculture here in Saskatchewan and I are in agreement on this one that we would ask them to revisit this. Because once again the ability or the, I guess in a word, vulcanization of an inspection across the country does create some problems as our animal products go forward into the market.

And so there's no question that the whole issue of once again food safety, having a good product for people, is the ultimate

goal. I think there probably is some disagreement with our federal government as to how we accomplish that. And it may be just a sign of the times of the federal government that we have, now that this particular issue is on our plate here in Saskatchewan, if I can say that, but what we need to make sure we do is that there is no gap in inspection.

And so I think I would say very clearly that that's what the Minister of Agriculture is doing here is making sure that there's no gap, that there's no time when there isn't a process in place that would be able to complete the inspection of this type of food that many of us consume.

So what does the Act do? Well once again it updates what's going on, but it also sets out the clear authority for how a third party might do this kind of inspection. And right now we do have a number of institutions that are, I guess, provincially licensed or provincially managed, but the actual inspection of those was done through the federal food agency, food inspection agency. And so how this then meshes with what's going to happen in 2014 and beyond is the subject of this particular piece of legislation.

Another aspect that relates to that, and actually quite separate in a way from the sort of food safety, food product issue, is the whole issue of a mutual assurance fund or a marketing assurance fund. And that's the situation where all of the people who are selling animals into the system would end up setting aside a small price of what they receive for their animal in a fund that covers the situation where a purchasing auction house or livestock group or whatever that buys the cattle, if that particular group goes under, then there would be an assurance fund that would make sure that the people who have sold the cattle aren't totally left holding the bag. And so I think that's a good thing as well.

Once again, it's something that takes procedures. And quite a bit of the legislation actually relates to the procedures around that marketing assurance fund and then who makes the decisions as to how much money you would get if you've not been paid for your animals, and how you have an ability to challenge the decision, and to the group that makes that decision and then effectively going for an appeal, ultimately to the courts, to resolve that issue.

And clearly the officials and minister who have been working on this know all of the interesting challenges that arise under crop insurance, and so therefore they've mimicked many of the procedures in this particular legislation around the provisions that would be covered under crop insurance. So practically we have now a provincial system for doing the livestock inspection, and we're going to do it in a way that allows it to be done by a third party.

And so the legislation says the minister is going to be responsible for this, but how the minister does it is going to be done in some new ways. And it basically includes everything involved in the livestock industry, and it includes all of the different procedures. And practically I think the public wants that. I think the people in the industry want that, but they want it to be done in the most efficient manner possible but also to make sure that our food is safe.

And so once again, this is legislation that's enabling, and it therefore lacks quite a few details on how the system will actually work. Now hopefully what we're going to get is something like what we have now that is provided through the federal government inspectors. The question becomes whether there are sufficient places to contract with to do the work that's involved. And I think that there will be the services provided that they're properly compensated.

So then the question comes, is where does that cost go? Like who is going to be responsible for paying the cost? Now practically we all know it will be the ultimate consumer that's going to pay for that cost, either through their taxes if the government does it or through the price of the product that they're going to buy. And the legislation doesn't totally deal with that issue, but it does hint that producers will have a role in funding the costs of inspection. And so it goes to that debate, I guess, around where and how these costs are allocated, and what is the best and most efficient way to do that.

I think that some of those kinds of questions will, can be answered, I guess, or yes, may be answered — maybe is the best way to say it — when we go into committee because the officials in the department who have been working on this particular legislation will have some idea of the mechanisms that are going to be set up. But I'm not sure that anybody has yet decided or sent to Treasury Board and the Minister of Finance what kind of fees might be applicable to producers or to the plants or the facilities where animals are slaughtered and then prepared into reasonable sizes to be consumed by the consumer. Where in the whole production line will the fees be paid? And I suspect that there may be a few more fees that are going to end up at the producer level and probably a few more fees that'll line up there at the butchering facility or other facility like that.

And so we need to understand what intention there is from the ministry on that because ultimately now we have, I think over the last number of decades, agreed that many of these costs are part of the cost to all society for having good, safe food. And we have paid them obviously through the federal government with taxation that goes there. Decisions are being made at the federal level that that's no longer going to be the case. So what do we do with this particular proposal? And I would suggest that we will be getting some answers around this, about how the whole system is going to be paid for. And so it's interesting to speculate when we move into a new system whether because we live in a wide-spread province with producers and then the production facilities spread in many places that . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being past 5 o'clock, this Assembly stands recessed until 7 p.m.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	1981
Draude	1981
McCall	1981
Doherty	1981
Chartier	1982
Docherty	1982
Cox	1982

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger	1982
Wotherspoon	1982

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Diwali Celebration	
Ross	1983
Saskatchewan Multicultural Week	
McCall	1983
Parent	1984
Recruiting and Retaining Physicians	
Moe	1983
<i>Life of Pi</i> World Premiere	
Sproule	1983
Agribition Incoming Buyers Program	
Bjornerud	1984
Government Partnership with the Red Cross	
Merriman	1984

QUESTION PERIOD

Information Services Corporation	
Sproule	1985
McMorris	1985
Potential Changes to Labour Legislation	
Forbes	1986
Morgan	1986
Financial Support for University	
Brotten	1988
Morgan	1988

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 69 — <i>The Information Services Corporation Act</i>	
McMorris	1989

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Ottenbreit	1990
------------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 66 — <i>The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act</i>	
Morgan	1990
Belanger	1990
Bill No. 68 — <i>The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012</i> <i>Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix</i>	
Wyant	1993
Belanger	1994

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 52 — <i>The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012</i>	
Sproule	1995
Bill No. 53 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)</i>	
Sproule	1996
Bill No. 54 — <i>The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012</i>	
Brotten	1998
Bill No. 55 — <i>The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act</i>	
McCall	1999

Bill No. 56 — <i>The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel</i>	
Wotherspoon	2002
Bill No. 57 — <i>The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012</i>	
Chartier	2003
Bill No. 58 — <i>The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012</i>	
Wotherspoon	2004
Bill No. 59 — <i>The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012</i>	
Nilson	2007
Bill No. 60 — <i>The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012</i>	
Nilson	2010

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Kevin Doherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General