



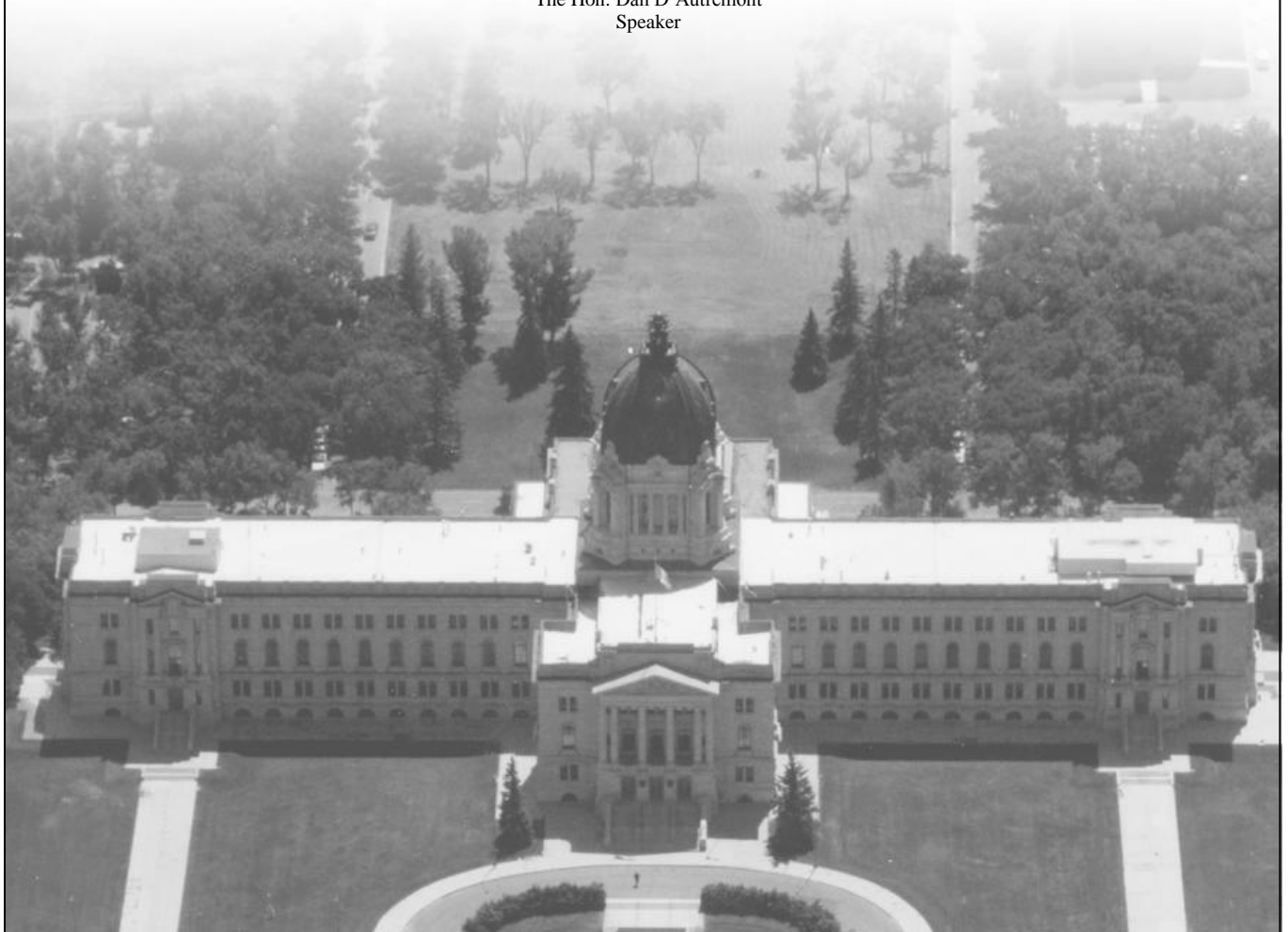
SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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, Hon. 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 member for Cypress Hills.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce a group of French grade 4 and 5 students from École Monseigneur de Laval here in the city of Regina.

And along with the students and their chaperones from Laval, we also have some other representatives from the francophone community joining us here today. I'd like to identify in particular Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, the president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, an organization whose purpose is to build and strengthen the francophone community here in Saskatchewan. And with Françoise today are a number of members of the Fransaskois community.

Would our honoured guests please rise today. I think we have this gallery full and some may be over in the west gallery as well. We'd like to welcome each of these guests to their Legislative Assembly today. Thank you very much.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd like to take this opportunity to officially proclaim March the 8th through to the 24th as Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2013 in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, during this period, which coincides with the International Day of La Francophonie on March 20th, Saskatchewan people will have the opportunity to join with fellow Canadians to celebrate our country's francophone culture and heritage. Now here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it provides the perfect opportunity to recognize the specific contributions that the Fransaskois make every day to support our growth and to enhance our quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, in my role as Provincial Secretary, I've had many opportunities to interact with the Fransaskois. And I have to tell you that no matter how many times I'm invited to attend a community event or to see a French artist perform or meet with any one of our province's francophone organizations — on official government business, by the way — I'm continually amazed at their enthusiasm, their dedication, and their love for French, the language, the culture, and the life.

And we're proud to have a francophone community that helps

shape our provincial cultural identity. I'd like to encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating the Francophonie in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to join with the Provincial Secretary in . . .

Je voudrais dire un grand bienvenue à l'Assemblée législative à tous les personnes ici avec le ACF [l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise] et les étudiants avec l'École Monseigneur de Laval.

[Translation: I would like to say a big welcome to the Legislative Assembly to all the people here with the ACF [Assembly of the French Community] and the students with l'École Monseigneur de Laval.]

I want to say congratulations.

Félicitations avec les festivités pour le Rendez-vous. [Translation: Congratulations with the festivities for the Rendez-vous.]

And really, Mr. Speaker, for a province whose motto is "from many peoples, strength," that strength and the pride that comes from the Fransaskois is something that we know well and we are very thankful for on this side of the Assembly. And I'm sure we join with all members in that pride and gratitude.

But as well to Madame Sigur-Cloutier, félicitations for the election and as well a word of thanks to your predecessor, Monsieur Heppelle, and Denis Simard, all the team with the ACF. Good to see you here and keep up that great work in helping us to realize that promise of Saskatchewan in terms of "from many peoples, strength," but not just strength but a lot of joy and celebration as well.

Welcome to your legislature. Bienvenue tout le monde. [Translation: Welcome everyone.]

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a group of five students and two teachers from Thom Collegiate. They're in grades 9 to 12, and they're part of the zone classroom.

And the zone classroom's an alternative model to the traditional approach to education. It's using an inquiry-based approach. Students curriculum outcomes to their interests and passions through a wide range of different projects and activities, and students are provided with a high level of support to work towards the goal of attaining the regular credits of graduation.

And I've had the opportunity to go the classroom a couple of times and actually did a little bit of tutoring. I'm going to apologize in advance if their outcomes aren't as good as they

should have been. But teachers Brian Gatin and Blaine Duffield and the five students from Thom Collegiate, I'd like to welcome you, and all of the members here welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House, a frequent visitor to this Legislative Assembly. Gunnar Passmore in the east gallery is with the building trades and an advocate for working men and women in this province, making sure we have safe and fair laws. And we want to welcome him to our Legislative Assembly here today. Thank you so much, Gunnar. Thanks.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Mr. Passmore to the House today. He is, as the member opposite indicated, a very frequent visitor here and a strong advocate for organized labour in our province, but he's also part of the growing economy that builds and creates the successes of our province. So we thank him and we thank all working men and women for that, Mr. Speaker.

I also know that he lives in Indian Head-Milestone, and I know the member from Indian Head-Milestone stops every election to try and get a sign put up. And to the member from Indian Head-Milestone: keep trying.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all colleagues of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to introduce a gentleman very important in my life sitting in the west gallery, Mr. Ron Naidu. Ron is my constituency assistant, and he makes life a lot easier for me, as do all CAs [constituency assistant] for all members of the Legislative Assembly. So welcome to your legislature, Ron, and glad to have you here today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Merci, Monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

I just want to very basically stand today and recognize a friend that spent many, many years in Ile-a-la-Crosse — shouldn't say many — but it's very nice to see him today with the Fransaskois group.

And, Mr. Speaker, as people will know, being a Métis person, or a Métis as the French would know, half of our culture belongs to the French. And in fact in our home community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, all the streets are named after our French families. You have Desjarlais, you have Morin, you have Belanger, you have Daigneault. You have all these French names in our community. And it's a great opportunity for me to stand today and say I'm very proud and that we ought to make

as much of an effort as an Aboriginal group, or as Aboriginal people, to recognize that culture that we share. And certainly today I want to do that.

So I want to welcome Yvan Lebel. Yvan has spent some time in Ile-a-la-Crosse. He attempted to teach me to play the piano. That didn't work out very well. He also attempted to coach me in hockey. That didn't work out very well. But, Mr. Speaker, he did tell me to be proud of my French heritage, and I want to stand up today to say that I am and to welcome mon ami. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I'd like to welcome all our guests here today and to remind them not to participate on events on the floor including applause. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

And we know since the Act was introduced in December, literally hundreds of hours of studying comparisons have been carried out in the interests of due diligence. And there is no labour relations crisis to fix and no necessity to rush this omnibus bill through that will likely govern workplace relations for decades to come. And if it does become the new law in the province, working people, particularly young workers, immigrant workers, and other vulnerable workers, will suffer from a hasty watering down of our current labour standards. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to not pass Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* in this current session before the end of May and to place it on a much longer legislative track to ensure greater understanding and support for the new labour law.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in reference to cell coverage, and the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the most amazing thing about this petition is it being signed by the members of these communities but, more importantly, it's being signed by the people all throughout the province. And I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Impaired Driving Awareness Week

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 4th to 10th is Impaired Driving Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. This week is spearheaded by Students Against Drinking and Driving, better known as SADD, with the help of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]. This week is important, Mr. Speaker, because alcohol use is one of the leading causes of fatal crashes in Saskatchewan.

SADD and SGI work hard to address this issue, Mr. Speaker. First there is the report impaired drivers program or RID, a partnership lead by SGI, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming authority, and law enforcement. Mr. Speaker, the goal of RID is to remove impaired drivers from our roads. If you suspect someone is driving drunk, call 911. SGI also partners with law enforcement on operation overdrive. This is a province-wide blitz targeting impaired driving. These programs help but there is more that can be done, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very proud and pleased to lead the newly formed Traffic Safety Committee to that effect.

I'd like to remind everyone to always plan a safe ride home. Use a designated driver. Call a designated driving service. Take a cab or the bus. SGI also has a free app that can help people get home safely. With all the options available, Mr. Speaker, there's just no excuse to drink and drive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

La Ronge Elder Receives Diamond Jubilee Medal

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the Charles family Christmas dinner in La Ronge this year and had the honour to present Elder Catherine Charles with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Catherine Charles is a respected elder of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. She has a large family with many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Many in the community are part of her extended family and I am honoured to be one of them. We treasure her kindness, her wisdom, and her caring spirit. I was honoured to nominate Catherine for this award and to present it to her.

I have personally relied on Elder Catherine for guidance and support on many topics and issues that affect our community. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the greatest honour of all was the presentation of this award and the chance to share the moment with so many of Catherine's family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to please join

with me in congratulating Elder Catherine Charles on receiving the Diamond Jubilee Medal. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Rural Women's Month

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the vital past, present, and future contributions of rural women in Saskatchewan, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Rural Women's Month.

Rural women have been crucial to the development of Saskatchewan communities while playing important roles in their municipalities and on family farms throughout this province's history. Although the makeup of rural Saskatchewan has changed considerably over the past century, the importance of rural women to the growth and development of this province and the agriculture industry remains as significant as ever.

Mr. Speaker, rural women in Saskatchewan have and will continue to be major contributors to the success of our province's economic and social development. The contributions of rural women are evident in the great work they do at their jobs, the education they provide, their contributions to agriculture, and the care they give to the young and the elderly. Additionally rural women are remarkable volunteers throughout our province, and Saskatchewan has prospered due to the pivotal role they play in our province's success.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly recognize the hard work, leadership, and significant contributions of past and present rural women to the social and economic growth of this great province. Thank you.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Roughriders and Red Cross Anti-Bullying Campaign

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, today we'd like to recognize the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Canadian Red Cross in their continued efforts to reduce bullying in Saskatchewan.

This is an issue that matters. The damage that it causes to young people in society is, as a whole, unacceptable. As well, Mr. Speaker, March is also national Red Cross awareness month. Since 2009 the Canadian Red Cross has been providing anti-bullying workshops in schools across the province, and Roughriders like Luc Mullinder, Weston Dressler, Chris Getzlaf, and Keith Shologan are among those players who have participated to use their image to help educate students on bullying prevention.

Last month these organizations took another step forward in a new agreement which allows for the participation of more players in the Red Cross's effort to stop the cycle of hurt that results from youth bullying.

Saskatchewan Roughrider president and CEO [chief executive officer] Jim Hopson described their desires to become involved: "The Saskatchewan Roughriders share the belief that bullying is

a community problem,” and that the team is “. . . proud to help the Red Cross address the issue by delivering violence- and abuse-prevention programs to schools and community groups across the province.”

We’d like to ask all colleagues in this Assembly to join us in thanking the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Canadian Red Cross for their continued efforts towards making bullying a thing of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Students Learn About Life in Politics

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in this House today to discuss a recent activity in one of my constituency’s classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I was recently contacted by Brian Ofukany who is a grade 8 teacher of social studies in the Tisdale Middle and Secondary School. Mr. Ofukany’s students have been learning about the impact of a citizen’s willingness and ability to actively engage in the Canadian political process. As an assignment, Mr. Ofukany had his students select one MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and MP [Member of Parliament] and contact them with a series of questions relating to their life in politics.

Mr. Speaker, Brian wishes to thank all those members who took time out of their busy schedule to respond to the students’ questions, saying, “The responses provided great insight into all the things that politicians deal with on a daily basis.” The students were genuinely engaged in the assignment, and they were excited when they received replies. Typically grade 8 students are not overly politically minded; however the connection that the members provided make the political process more real for them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members involved for their participation as well as Brian and his students for all their great work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Loreburn Rink Wins Grand Prize

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the residents in the community of Loreburn. Everyone in this village loves Mars bars. How much do they love Mars bars, you ask? Well so much that the Loreburn rink was recently named one of the five grand-prize winners in the Mars bars Play Your Part Promotion.

This contest was open to all rinks across Canada. With the chance of being awarded a prize of \$20,000, all they had to do was gather as many PIN [personal identification number] numbers found in the wrappers of Mars bars and enter them online. The Loreburn Recreational Board had applied in March of 2012 to join the Mars bars promotion. Two months later they were informed they had advanced to the second round. In June they heard they were picked as one of the finalists. Since then,

Mr. Speaker, the community of Loreburn has been eating Mars bars ever since.

Vanessa Tastad, who is a Loreburn Recreation Board president and village councillor, was kept busy entering PIN numbers for residents. She credits the whole village in this effort. The rink sold Mars bars exclusively in their concession. The high school football team . . . and the Mars bars are sold at every school function. They faced off in the final round against rinks in Mission, BC [British Columbia]; London, Ontario; Warwick, Quebec; and Marsh Lake, Yukon.

The Loreburn rink is planning to use the \$20,000 prize money to make improvements to their new dressing rooms, which include painting, adding stick racks, and door closures. They’re planning to install new flooring as well in the 48-year-old building.

I would ask that all members please join me in congratulating the community of Loreburn on their much-deserved win.

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

Agriculture Literacy Week

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House to announce that this week marks Agriculture Literacy Week in Saskatchewan. Agriculture Literacy Week is a time to show our youth the importance and the value of agriculture and the role our producers play in feeding the world.

Today Canadian agriculture employs over 2 million people in Canada. Mr. Speaker, our government supports a number of initiatives to help educate youth about agriculture in Saskatchewan, including Ag in the Classroom. The Ministry of Agriculture has provided \$150,000 in funding over the past year to fund Ag in the Classroom. Mr. Speaker, Agriculture in the Classroom marked Ag Literacy Week by organizing a number of events, including Agriculture Adventure at the Saskatchewan Science Centre, made-in-Saskatchewan lunch at Albert Scott community school — and there was no Mars bars, to my colleague from Arm River — and having farmers and ranchers visit classrooms to read to students and talk about agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing the excellent work of Ag in the Classroom for their advancement of agriculture literacy in our younger generation. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Release of Information Regarding IPAC-CO2

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s another day and another changed story from that government on its IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] cover-up. We asked yesterday whether contracts existed between IT [information technology] vendors — set up by this government with public money — and the government. The minister claimed there were three, in this

House. But now that story's changed.

The news today exposes more incorrect answers from that minister with more contracts with that government, some even going untendered and without proper oversight. One contract, Mr. Speaker, that was almost half a million dollars, just a small oversight of the minister yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. A slow leak of incorrect, inconsistent, troubling information from that minister is no substitute for straight answers and real accountability. To the minister: when will the public get a straight answer to this question and the full story on the IPAC cover-up?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for his question. And before he makes further accusations against my colleague who's been forthright with her answers, he asked yesterday specifically about contracts within the Crowns. The Minister Responsible for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] responded very specifically to his questions about Crown contracts. So for him to cast aspersions today, Mr. Speaker, I think is quite incorrect.

As to the other contracts that the member has asked, through the Public Service Commission our agency of record subcontracted to ClimBIT. That process was done completely appropriately. Once that work was done, the PSC [Public Service Commission] wanted to continue with the services of ClimBIT, and the personnel involved believed that they could just renew the contract without tendering. Mr. Speaker. That was a mistake.

I've voiced my concern to my deputy minister. The Chair of the Public Service Commission has spoken to the employees involved to explain to them once again what our processes and procedures are, and the deputy minister to the Premier has also alerted the deputy ministers of all ministries as to what the procedures are. We want to have an open, transparent process in this province, Mr. Speaker, and we are taking steps to correct the mistakes that we've made.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — As I said yesterday, getting information on the Sask Party's IPAC cover-up has been like pulling teeth, Mr. Speaker. We see that again here today.

Let me be clear that minister has failed to provide consistent, correct answers; failed to provide the full facts upfront; and has deflected responsibility at every turn. In fact last week the minister sent a letter to the president of the University of Regina regarding the contractors in question and the PTRC [Petroleum Technology Research Centre], Mr. Speaker, which is independent of the university, and the minister should know that. But all while pointing her finger at the university, the minister failed to do her own homework in her own backyard, Mr. Speaker. She's failed to fulfill her responsibility for the tax dollars she's responsible for and the contracts with her government.

When will that minister come clean and be straight with Saskatchewan people about that government's IPAC cover-up?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — This has been, Mr. Speaker, day after day after day of leadership hopeful spin, is what this has been all about and nothing else, Mr. Speaker. He knows full well that the letter that was written to the president of the U of R [University of Regina] pointed out that we had discovered that Dr. Wilson was involved with PTRC and there was a sole-source contract. What I requested of the president . . . And I also gave her a phone call that morning and just said, can you look across the university to find any other such contracts, as we will be doing in government?

Yesterday the member opposite asked about what I had discovered in the Crown corporations, and I gave the answer for the three contracts that has been brought forward to me. I have answered his questions. He knows the answers. He's known a lot of this without . . . while pretending that there is this big mystery. And yet when I told him I would give some information of people off the record, he didn't even bother to come and ask me what I was talking about. Why? Because he knew the answer all along, and he is just pretending that there is a cover-up.

The Speaker: — I would like to caution the member on his use of words. The word "cover-up" in Beauchesne's edition no. 6 is not a permitted term, based on the November 16th, 1977 ruling. So I would ask the member to not use that verbiage. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. This government has responsibility for this IPAC debacle from day one. They chose to start up and operate both CVI [Climate Ventures Inc.] and IPAC with taxpayer dollars. Those public dollars started flowing early on in their term in 2008. They chose as well to put three of seven board members on IPAC, Mr. Speaker. They chose to put some of their closest confidants on that board. And they chose to claim there was value for money and that there was a contract — statements that have been proven to be not true once facts were exposed by investigation. And we continue to receive inconsistent, incorrect answers, including just yesterday about IT contracts with that government.

Mr. Speaker, instead of covering up, when will that minister and government start owning up and call on the Provincial Auditor, call on the Provincial Auditor to fully investigate this IPAC debacle?

The Speaker: — I cautioned the member on the use of that word and the context of that word. I would ask the member to now withdraw that remark and apologize. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has

been many, many, many times these questions have been answered, and he knows that. He absolutely knows that. This is all about the theatre that he wants, to have this big play, stage the whole acting and the drama. And it's for his leadership bid, nothing more. That is what this is about.

He knows full well that the difficulties that were identified happened when IPAC was under the management of the University of Regina. He knows that. He knew who was involved. He knew how it started. He knew about the contract. He knows all of that, and he keeps pretending otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, when IPAC incorporated and a board was put together for the new incorporation, immediate steps were taken. The funding was suspended. A forensic audit was ordered on the agreement with CVI. The relationship with CVI was severed. The assets were secured. They hired an independent IT consultant to assess the services performed by CVI. The funding control was moved from the U of R to IPAC-CO2, and that member knows all of it.

The Speaker: — I would like to remind the Opposition Whip not to bring the Speaker into the debate on the floor. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Repairs to School Infrastructure

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government has a lot of time and resources for misadventures like standardized testing. But when it comes to facing the real challenges for students and teachers in the classroom, they're not making the grade.

This week there were reports about the problems caused by a water main break at Gard'Amis child care and educational centre at l'École Monseigneur de Laval. And as if that wasn't problem enough, the school has been coping with a leaking roof for years. This roof is long past its 25-year lifespan. L'École Monseigneur de Laval and the Conseil scolaire fransaskois have spent \$100,000 on patching the roof. Tests for mould and other problems are ongoing. The roof needs to be replaced. The francophone school board asked for money to replace the roof three years ago, but the problem with the roof continues.

To the minister: why are students at l'École Monseigneur de Laval being told to wait for the budget to get the roof fixed?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government knows that investing in school infrastructure is an investment in our students. We want to support our students. We want to support our teachers. We want to support our schools the best way we can. Our government has made a record investment in school infrastructure, \$500 million since becoming government. We inherited a \$1.2 billion deficit. We've seen first-hand how these new and updated spaces help to create environments that are so conducive to learning, and we'll continue to invest in the infrastructure of our schools as we go forward, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — It says a lot about this government's priorities that they would force l'École Monseigneur de Laval to do expensive patching repairs over the past three years and beyond rather than fix the problem. When it comes to putting new hardwood floors in the Premier's office, it's all systems go. But for the leaking roof above students and teachers at l'École Monseigneur de Laval, the answer is again, not yet. It's a question of priorities, Mr. Speaker, and this government is getting the answer wrong.

The school administrators say students and teachers shouldn't have to learn or work in this environment, and we in the official opposition agree. To the minister: will the roof be fixed on l'École Monseigneur de Laval, or will those students and teachers be forced to wait yet another year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, over 70 per cent of our schools are at least 40 years old so both replacement and new schools are needed. We realize that. Even with the \$500 million allocated, we're still making up for years and years of neglect.

Mr. Speaker, we inherited a \$1.2 billion school deficit infrastructure. We've committed approximately \$500 million since 2007 — major capital \$369.5 million, Mr. Speaker; block funding \$127.4 million, Mr. Speaker. There has been a 217 per cent increase in school infrastructure spending since forming government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Progress of Labour Bill

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members of the Minister of Labour's own advisory committee have asked him to slow down on Bill 85. This morning the Regina *Leader-Post* printed a plea from a member of the minister's own hand-picked committee. Hugh Wagner, who sits on that committee, writes that the Sask Party is in a hurry for no reason. And I quote:

The new bill repeals nearly 1,000 pages of current provincial legislation and consolidates it into 184. In total, 33 pieces of legislation are repealed and/or amended — a substantial undertaking that, logically, should require far more public, labour and business input than what has been provided for to date.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister at least slow down his plan to ram this bill through and listen to the concerns of the very people he appointed to work on this legislation?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the advisory committee. These are people from business and within the labour movement. They provided a lot

of advice, direction, and guidance.

The makeup of the committee is such that it is not likely going to produce a consensus on a lot of issues. But I'm surprised, Mr. Speaker, that there was a consensus on a number of things. Those things have found their way into the bill. Over the course of the last few months, we've received 3,800 submissions. We've had an additional period of time to allow for submissions once the bill has been introduced. We know that, as a result of that, we are going to have to make a series of changes and, Mr. Speaker, the process is going along. We have a number of other meetings going on and we will make changes as are required and as are appropriate.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, clearly the working people of Saskatchewan have been kept in the dark on this. And the more time people try to shine some light on the Sask Party's workplace law rewrite, the more they're uncovering strange inconsistencies.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the old law specified Sunday would be a day of rest whenever possible while scheduling. Now in fact, the new law doesn't, and this was not brought to the public's attention in December before Christmas. Obviously some are very concerned that this will unfairly upset the work-family balance people in Saskatchewan value as core to our way of life here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly a consequence of a rushed piece of legislation. Will the minister do the right thing, listen to members of his own advisory committee, and delay the passage of this bill so that these kind of problems can be sorted out?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question again. The issue the member raises is whether Sunday should be enshrined as a specified day off. There have been court challenges with regard to Sunday being a religious holiday and the Act has been amended in compliance with the rulings of the courts in our province and elsewhere. We do require there to be two days a week, two days of rest per week, Mr. Speaker, rather than including Sunday, which is in compliance with the law of the land now.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise that the member from Saskatoon Riversdale asked the question on Monday, March 4th, and she read this section from the Act. She said, "In prescribed workplaces . . . an employer shall grant to employees in the workplace or to the category of employees two consecutive days off . . ." Then she goes on half a page later and says, "So am I correct in saying that employees will no longer be entitled to two days off in a week?" Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite and the member for Riversdale, if she reads her own question, there are two consecutive days off per week.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting answer that the minister clearly has thought about this but did not

highlight this particular change in December. And while he may talk about it as a faith issue, many people talk about it as a work-life balance issue. And he's not had the time to highlight that kind of change with people who would like to know that that's the change we're kind of talking about. So I'll say it again, Mr. Speaker: this Sask Party government just will not listen.

We know over the last three months experts have pored over these changes to spot what's been left out and what will change for middle-class workers and small businesses. These experts say they need more time to track these changes and consider the potential consequences of the Sask Party labour bill. And it begs the question, as Hugh Wagner asks in the paper today, and I quote: "What is driving the government's rushed efforts to pass Bill 85 in the spring sitting of the legislature?"

To the minister: will he commit today to listen to members of his own advisory committee and delay passage of Bill 85 until the fall sitting?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, our province is bound by the courts. It's not a subject that we can debate, whether we have Sundays as a day off or another day off. The issue is we are providing that employees are entitled to two consecutive days off. We've done that. This isn't something we would want to delay a bill or a piece of legislation for.

I am however pleased that the member opposite is reading the bill and is studying the bill. I went through the various submissions that have come in to date, Mr. Speaker. And since the bill has been introduced, one of the ones that I would have thought would have introduced or filed a submission would have been the members opposite. But to date, Mr. Speaker, there has been no submission since from the New Democratic Party. I was looking for that with some interest. And I would have thought that if they wished to speak on behalf of their members or their supporters . . . Now perhaps, Mr. Speaker, they're caught up with other things such as the leadership convention or whatever else is taking place this week. But, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to seeing if they wish to file a late submission, and from them we would welcome it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Financial Management and Reporting

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're two weeks away from budget day and it's clear to all the people of the province that this government is struggling with its finances. When given a chance to report its finances just a couple of weeks ago, that government put forth a spun set of books with a report that would be accepted nowhere else in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Now that government is unwilling to come clean with alleged wasted money and that government even won the Pinocchio Award for its financial management and reporting. Mr. Speaker, how does that cut it for Saskatchewan people who deserve nothing less than sound financial management and the true full state of our books?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has raised a number of issues in his question, and I want to thank the member.

First of all, the member is making a comment about summary financial statements and the General Revenue Fund. Mr. Speaker, the NDP [New Democratic Party] in 2004, when the member from Athabasca was part of that government, they introduced, for the very first time, summary financial statements — in 2004, Mr. Speaker, after the opposition and the auditor said, you can't just do General Revenue Fund. So, Mr. Speaker, that system has been in place since 2004. We provide the summary financial statements at mid-year, Mr. Speaker, which is what the member opposite had an opportunity to read back at mid-year. And, Mr. Speaker, we will provide the summary financials at the time of the budget, which will be March 20th. And I ask the member to stay tuned.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're just two weeks away from budget with a government that's clearly scrambling, a government that's hiding alleged waste and being called out by the Provincial Auditor for reporting our finances in a way that she said is "misleading and wrong." So what did the Sask Party government do when they were confronted with that, Mr. Speaker? They attacked the messenger, the auditor, leaving our Provincial Auditor to say:

I just hope the discussion around here — and with all due respect — is not a message to me and to my staff that we should not be operating independently and performing the work that we think is appropriate in this province.

Mr. Speaker, instead of heeding the advice of the auditor, or at least respecting her role, they attacked the Provincial Auditor at the first opportunity in the Public Accounts. My question to the minister: why would he choose this approach?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every government, including this government, appreciates the work of the Provincial Auditor. Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we have had many auditors who have commented on, first of all, up until 2004 the Saskatchewan position, which was only a General Revenue Fund. Mr. Speaker, that was reality until 2004. In 2004, the NDP, and I've given them credit for that, introduced summary financials as well as the General Revenue Fund and they made the changes to *The Financial Administration Act*. Mr. Speaker, that is the Act that is in place; that is the Act that directs Treasury Board; and that is what we do. We prepare, with the advice of the Provincial Comptroller, we prepare a General Revenue Fund statement and we prepare a summary financial fund statement. We have at this point a disagreement with the auditor as to whether or not her comments about the General Revenue Fund are indeed accurate, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're just two weeks from budget and that government's clearly scrambling financially. They've been selling assets, hiding alleged waste. They've stripped our Crowns of another \$120 million. They're increasing our debt by \$950 million this year alone. And if you can fathom, they're actually running expensive ads to tell us they'll be cutting, Mr. Speaker. It's simply more spin. And their books, in the words of the auditor, are misleading and wrong. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, why should anyone trust the upcoming budget from this government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what we want to say to the people of Saskatchewan, that Saskatchewan . . . to the people, that Saskatchewan has a unique position. Saskatchewan was the only province to have a balanced budget last year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while we understand, we understand that the times that are facing other provinces . . . We just saw yesterday and the day before, Mr. Speaker, the actual acceptance of the BC budget that proposes increases; it proposes cuts, Mr. Speaker.

We in the province of Saskatchewan are taking a different approach, and we have done that, Mr. Speaker. We have taken an approach that deals with expenditure, Mr. Speaker, unlike the opposite members, Mr. Speaker. And the member who is asking the questions is proposing \$5 billion worth of spending, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's who's going to drive up the debt.

[14:15]

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

Community Pastures

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the federal government abandoned rural Canadians and farm families when they walked away from managing Saskatchewan's PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration] community pastures. In January several hundred concerned patrons formed the Community Pasture Patrons Association to represent the interests of more than 2,600 pasture patrons who have been using the pastures for decades.

The association has now met with and signed up almost half of the patron groups, and they're working hard to meet with the rest of the groups and need more time. They're very concerned with the aggressive timeline this government has set out for off-loading the individual pastures. To the minister: will he stop rushing the process, listen to the Community Pasture Patrons Association, and give them the time they need to organize? What's the rush?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for her question. Ministry of Agriculture staff have been meeting with patrons throughout this process. Meetings have been held with the first 10 patrons groups around the province. The regional patron information meetings were held

across the province in the month of February, in which every patron had an invitation to attend.

Mr. Speaker, the patrons are becoming quite well informed of what's happening with the previous PFRA community pastures. The group the member speaks about is led by Ian McCreary, a former Wheat Board director back in the grim days when the Wheat Board was compulsory and directors were appointed.

But he has this to say, he has this to say, Mr. Speaker, and he says it in *The Commonwealth*. He says that:

There are many reasons why progressive people in rural Saskatchewan no longer support the NDP . . . the Romanow administration made cuts which disproportionately affected rural people. Over fifty rural hospitals were closed. We withdrew from the national farm income support program during the lowest farm . . .

The Speaker: — Next question, please. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The province should be focused on protecting these pastures as important parts of our ecosystem and of our rural economy. Those are the interests that the patrons have at heart.

The president of the Community Pastures Patrons Association referred to by the minister says that the proposal the Sask Party government put forward will drive up costs for patrons and is simply unworkable. The minister's proposal will increase the patrons' costs by between 67 per cent and 117 per cent. The offer is unaffordable and will drive most of these producer patrons out of the cattle business.

A key factor is that over the past eight decades these producers have paid significant fees to build the wells, fences, and corrals in the pastures. As part of the minister's proposal, producers are now being forced to buy back their own improvements. That's not fair for these farm families. Why can't the minister do the math and realize he's forcing the patrons into defeat by putting an unaffordable offer on the table?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — You know, Mr. Speaker, costs will vary from pasture to pasture and if the patrons want to run exactly the same service that the PFRA provided, with a massive subsidy, it'll cost more. If they want to use their inherent efficiencies that they've learned through a life in agriculture, it'll cost less.

I don't know where Mr. McCreary gets his numbers but you'd think he could draw on some of the lessons he learned as a director of the compulsory Wheat Board wherein he said the rural road network, taxed by a rapidly centralized elevator system, began a rapid process of decline during the Romanow years. He said the end result was that rural people felt abandoned by the NDP government. In subsequent elections, rural areas were not represented in government and rural people watched, often in disbelief, as rural policy was generated in urban areas.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 85

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 85** — *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join in the debate on Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. I guess opening up . . . And I know with a conversation a lot of questions are being asked, and there are a lot of people, individuals that are very concerned about the timing of this bill and the way this bill is being handled and legislation and the way that we're looking at it. And I mean I'm going to go over it point by point, and we're going to have some discussions on some of the concerns in areas that are being faced. So I think we're going to spend some time today discussing this bill because it's so important.

There's so many areas and so many areas in this legislation that will impact men and women of our province, our young people that are hard-working. There's protections in legislation that are being affected, and I think people are very concerned. So I want to just kind of start going into the lack of consultation that's gone on in this bill.

And I know the minister likes to refer to his time frame that he's used. Well 90 days clearly has not been enough time, and I think we see that by the response that we're having from individuals. And the minister can say he's had time to allow people to bring forward their concerns, and clearly that has not happened. And he refers to about 38 actual submissions that he's received — 3,800 is what he's saying. I'm not sure of those numbers, if they're there or not. We'll see. He says he's going through them.

But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear that there are a lot of issues, and I think it's about timing. And we're going to go through this bill slowly. We're going to make sure. We're going to take the time to discuss it. And I think that's what people are asking.

They want to make it very clear: this bill is going to impact I guess many families in this province, many workers in this province, not only the immigration individuals that come to our province — the foreign workers that come in — but clearly Saskatchewan residents. Whether they're young, old, whether they're students, whether they're post-secondary, they have to work sometimes to cover off their living expenses, to cover off some of the tuition costs that are being forced on them, so they are working.

So some of these changes in here . . . We don't know how they will be impacted. And I don't think they've had the opportunity, and I don't think, to be fair, that students have had a chance to

look at this legislation. It's such a large piece of legislation. And when you talk about whether it's 33, we're hearing, pieces of legislation that will be impacted by the changes that the Sask Party government's proposing . . . And you know, you look at all those challenges.

And I want to put out a little bit of a thank you to the critic for his role of Labour from the official opposition. And to watch as he went around and he consulted with individuals . . . And he held meetings all over the province, trying to find out and trying to do his best to talk about some of the issues facing our workforce in this province.

And we have a very proud and we have a long history of legislation, years and years. And a lot of time and effort went into pieces of legislation that we use, whether that legislation has developed into regulations and allowed those regulations to happen. Within those, I guess, legislation that's been passed and the bills that have passed, organizations, whether they're the employer, they set the tone on how people will work together, how companies will hire individuals, how companies will work.

So the area where we're talking about consultation is . . . And I mean we're going to go on some time here discussing that because that has been raised time and time again, not only by the official opposition, by many individuals, organizations, the unions. And I mean we've looked at a lot of it.

And I know in the record my colleagues have expressed concern that have spoke before me, about that process, about the time. And they're very concerned about the manner and the timeline that this government is pushing ahead on these bills. There is obviously concern that this government is pushing ahead without respecting the workers, the unions, and their issues. And whether you're talking about individuals who are, I guess, truly going through the bills, they're identifying that there has to be more time. And we talked about, I guess in question period, some of the questions that were asked.

And it's interesting. There was an individual, Hugh Wagner, who's raised concerns about the handling of this. And a part of a committee or an individual, he's raising concerns. And looking at an article in the *Leader-Post* from that individual and the concerns that he's raised, and it's about the time. And he raises one area about the time and pushing ahead with this and asking and I think clearly suggesting to the government, it's okay to take a break, take a pause, and slow down and not to ram this bill through.

But unfortunately we see that that's not going to happen. The government's going to go ahead. They're going to push this bill. And we're hoping that they will slow it down. The minister will see his error. The government will say, okay, we made a mistake. We don't have this right. We need to slow down. We need to make sure that individuals understand the process. It's a clear message.

We heard the minister today sharing some light that he's looked at it. Well, I think that's exactly what . . . Our critic for Labour has made it very clear. That's what the public wants, that duty to consult and accommodate, the duty to make sure people are informed, that there's ongoing discussions and that those discussions that are happening are happening with the labour

movement.

And I want to talk about, and I guess, the union movement. And I've had an opportunity to meet with some of the individuals over the times that I've been elected, some of the unions. They're very strong. And I say they work hard for the membership, for the people they represent. And when you look at that, and they have a different type of I guess an organization, and I look at it, and it's respected. And they have very strong ties to one another that hold up together, and it's a brother and sister. And you look at the way they support one another through some rough times, and you look at how they work together and how they communicate together. And I mean it's impressive to watch how they come together and they organize.

And when it's, I guess, not only . . . You look at the unions and you look at the movement, and I want to be clear about the role that they have and what unions have done. And I look at some of the strength that they have had, and over time, when times weren't good for individuals. And when individuals first come out and there wasn't a lot of legislation in here to protect individuals, something happened, and clearly individuals came forward with concerns. And from there legislation was passed to protect workers, to make sure that those workers' rights were protected. And it didn't happen in 90 days. It took years to get and develop and to actually find the legislation and regulations that would protect workers. It took many years, many hours, many days, many months.

So when we look at that, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear. There was time involved over years and years of hard work by not only government, by industry, by the unions, by working families to clearly bring legislation that would protect our workers of this province. And we needed those protections over time.

But now we see this government coming forward with such a move. And it isn't that people are saying it's not time to review legislation. It's good. There's no problem. People are saying it's fine. Let's look at some of them if you have to change. We want to improve things. If there's legislation that needs to be removed, repealed, that's fine. People are saying, we understand that the work of government has to happen. And sometimes there might be house cleaning items that have to be . . . But the point they're making, it's the time frame that they're trying to do this in. It's such a large bill. There's so many, I guess, areas of Saskatchewan, working people in this province that will be impacted.

And I don't think truly the government has thought this through. They have an agenda, and that's what we're hearing some people are concerned about. They have their own agenda, and they're going to ram it through. It doesn't matter who it impacts and what it takes away from the working students, from our seniors, from working families. It doesn't seem to matter what's going to affect them. Somehow somebody's got a hold of their ear and said, this is what we want; this is what's good. And they're pushing ahead, and that's the concern.

[14:30]

Why not slow this down? Why not make sure we are consulting with individuals, with the working men and women of this province, the working families who are struggling in areas, who

can shed light and who have had an opportunity over the years to deal with some of those challenges. And I know a lot of my colleagues have expressed their concern when it came down to the timeline of this bill. And if you look at that, and I think people are saying very clearly slow down, you know.

And the Sask Party government doesn't have to be so bullheaded about this. They could slow down, take a breather, take a break and say, maybe we are pushing this. Maybe we need to slow down and have a good look at this, make sure the changes we are going to make are going to improve the economy, going to improve opportunities for working men and women of this province, to make sure that it's going to improve better working conditions, safer working conditions, to make sure how it will impact men and women who go to work, many of them just about every day, to provide for their families.

Now we talk about safety. And we have to look at and go through the bill to see how will that impact safety. We look at worker safety, and we've seen some of the challenges that families have to face. They lose their loved ones because of a work-related incident. So we want to make sure safety in there is crucial, that's it's looked . . . and the time and the discussions have gone on with probably individuals who have experienced that. I guess as far as the employers who have had to deal with that as well, it can't be easy for them.

So there's a lot of challenge, and I think one of the biggest ones is the process on consulting, talking with, you know, stakeholders, talking with the individuals that will be impacted. And I don't think this government has done it and has not got it right by the way they've handled this. They're pushing ahead with it. They're not listening, and they don't want to listen. And that's unfortunate.

This government doesn't have I think, clearly, the interests of the working women if they're not willing to slow down when they're asked, when individuals come forward and they're being asked, slow this down. And the government says, no, we're not slowing down. We're going to push ahead with it. And they can spin it how they want. And that's sad, in that area.

Now I'm going to come back to that area a little bit, but I want to . . . You know, it's very clear, people are wondering why. Why the rush? Why the rush job? Why the rush job? And they will sit there and say, when you have years . . . And that's what I said in my earlier comments, and I know my colleagues have talked about this. And I know individuals are bringing this information forward to our caucus, to the critic for Labour, and clearly have said, why the rush to get this done, to put this legislation through? And that's really a concern.

But we see the different challenges that are going on in this province right now when it comes to working families. They're having struggles out there. They're having a tough time to make ends meet. And I guess at the end of the day, how will this legislation impact, and how will it make their life any better? Will it make it affordable?

And we've seen some of the challenges. I want to show some examples of that and some of the comments that come out. We talk about rent controls to protect families who are working. You know what? Why don't we have legislation that protects

renters? And those renters are either on fixed income or they're working. And some of them are working three jobs to make ends meet. Why should that be happening in a province that brags?

But we can spend our time in rushing certain bills through this House — for what reason? — when we have a crisis going on with rents, 77 per cent increase on rents. And we're not rushing to help those individuals. Why is that? Why is the Sask Party not rushing off to help individuals with rent controls?

But here they have legislation where they want to push. And they have individuals and lots of individuals — lots of organizations, lots of groups, and lots of I guess working men and women — asking them to slow down and think this thing through. Well no, they want to push ahead with it. So it's amazing to watch the difference: their priorities, and they're picking them. And that's a sad day because it's individuals, it's individuals that suffer. It's our students. It's our seniors. It's our middle-class families out there trying to make ends meet, and they're being impacted in so many different ways, whether it's rents, whether it's the working conditions. And all they're asking for is, clearly, take the time. Do this right.

But again we go back to a Sask Party government that doesn't care once they're there. They don't listen to the people. Oh, they might say that. And we talk about dollars. And you know, I want to get into that in a little bit about the dollars that they're spending. And the minister said there would be no money spent on this, but we see already . . . And I think my colleague has made it very clear, the critic for Labour has made it very clear that the cost, the money that's being spent, I think there's over \$700,000 being spent and it could be more.

Now if you're going to put this kind of money into it, then why not do it right? Why not make sure at the end of the day, if you're going to spend this money on this bill, why don't you make sure that individuals feel like they've had the input, they've been consulted, that they've had their chance to be heard, and that they've had their ideas and their suggestions adopted by the government. Sometimes you can't just say, oh we've heard you and walk away. Individuals want the changes too, when they come with ideas and improvements to legislation, when they come in improvement to the quality of life for working families in this province.

So when I look at Bill 85, I want to make it very clear. We have a lot of concerns, but we have a lot of individuals saying, maybe it's time to look at this legislation. But they are concerned about the dollars. And when you look at dollars right now and you see the ads being run, I think about \$92,000, they're running some ads telling people to be prepared — you know, the budget may not be as good, you know. But yet you see some of my colleagues and the questions we've been asking about the mismanagement of dollars, about the accountability, the people want to hold the government to account. These are the dollars that belong to individuals. They're taxpayers. They work hard and they want to make sure at the end of the day the government of the day looks after — and the ministers — and is accountable for their dollars.

And we see where the government is spending 700,000 here to look at this legislation and Bill 85. And I think some of those

individuals are not . . . And I mean, some will be boisterous. Some will talk about it in the coffee shops and you hear some of the discussion. They're listening. They're paying attention. More and more, I think, individuals are paying attention to what's going on and they are concerned about stuff coming out and the questions and about the accountability of the Sask Party government. And I've said this yesterday and I'm going to say it again, the people will one day hold this government to account for the actions you've done.

And you know, you have individuals within the government and you have the backbenchers and you have individuals out there, they've got to go home and deal with this. They've got to sell what's going on, and they've got to face the music. It's your government. You're on that side of it; you have to. You can't just always be about the photo ops and all the great times. When times get tough, people look at the government and they want to hold the government to account for the challenges that they're being faced. But when they find out that money's being wasted and not taken care of when they've asked and they've given you that trust to look after their hard-earned dollars and you don't respect that trust that they've given you, they will send you a message. Mark my words, they will send a message.

So we look at the cost and we look at the spending. And you know, we're not sure yet, too — with the piece of legislation that's going on and the proposed changes — we're not sure how northern Saskatchewan will be impacted. We have a mining industry. We have forestry — for what there is out there, there's forestry. We have, you know, a lot of different areas where, you know, we have mining. And truly we have, probably the largest employer would be Cameco in northern Saskatchewan. And then we have gold mines. We have a lot of opportunity in northern Saskatchewan when it comes to the mines.

So how will that impact and what changes will impact those workers? And what changes are coming ahead that the government's going to ram without consulting those workers and those companies? The individuals who live in northern Saskatchewan, those individuals who live in the rest of this beautiful province who work in northern Saskatchewan in the mining industry and work at the gold mines, uranium mines, how are they? And you know, there's so many of them — whether they work in the janitorial or the housekeeping, the kitchen, the catering area, whether it's working in the actual mine working underground, working for one of the different companies — that are working in the area that have contracts with the mining industry with Cameco, Areva.

When we see those individuals . . . And I don't think . . . And that's what we're asking. They're asking and they've made — very clearly from my side — employees, they want to know. For those individuals that work for those companies, they want to make sure that their rights are going to be protected by this legislation. And yes, we have unions and then there are certain agreements, but not all of them are covered by union agreements. So there are challenges. What they have to go by is labour standards. They have to go by what legislation is passed to protect workers. So when we look at this type of a situation, people are very concerned, and what will impact them? How will this impact them?

And I think the government has an obligation because it's so

huge, this bill. It could impact so many rights of working people of this province. I think the government doesn't just . . . should do it. I think they have an obligation, and they owe the citizens of this province the due diligence to go through this legislation properly to take the time, have a well thought-out plan, make sure you're going out and you're talking with the individuals. Take the time. To rush this like we're hearing, that is where alarm bells are ringing off about the push and the push and the rush and the rush. And I think that's where we're hearing individuals say — concern.

So it's about the middle class. They will be impacted, and they're not sure exactly how they will. But when you start talking about some of the changes, I'm saying this to all individuals who work in this province: be paying attention. Send letters. Send emails. Phone your MLAs. Tell them, what are you guys doing with all these changes to legislation?

We have taken years and years to develop, I guess, legislation — rules, regulations to protect workers, men and women. So I'm going to say to those individuals, make sure you get a hold of Sask Party MLAs. Make sure you send them emails on Facebook, any way you can message. Phone, letters, any way you can send the message to them to ask them to truly either explain it and how you're going to be impacted, or to slow down and let that process happen to make sure that stakeholders are at the table explaining this. So I think that's clear. I ask that, and I know there's people listening. And I'm going to say that. And I know they're trying to do what they can to get the attention of the Minister of Labour on this. But having said that, we will encourage that, to continue bringing that forward.

Now I've talked about the lack of consultation, the lack of reaching out and getting information. We've talked about the rush. We've talked, you know, about how will the legislation impact northern Saskatchewan. And there's many areas of northern Saskatchewan could be impacted, whether it's individuals working in our hospitals, working at our . . . whether it's on our highways, whether it's individuals working with the fire services protection, whether it's individuals working in any capacity with government, with any organization in northern Saskatchewan, whether it's small business, whether it's large business, whether it's a mom-and-pop business, whether mom and dad own a business. And you know, you look at all those challenges. How will this impact companies? Is this going to make it better for them and their employees? Are some of the changes that the government's going to introduce, are they going to affect the little, you know, the little jobs and the little companies? And you know, how will it impact the big companies?

So there's a lot of questions people have. And they're asking clearly for the government to slow down. Let's think this thing through. Like I mean, when I talk about it and you hear some of my colleagues talk about the time and the length that it has taken us to develop this legislation to protect our workers in our province, we have to be clear that that part of it has to happen and isn't happening under this government.

So when we look at their rush . . . Now I want to go back to some examples to this Bill 85. We've seen some of the legislation here before. Sometimes legislation comes before the legislature and this House, and we actually go through it and we

have the debates. We have the discussions. But at the end of the day, we have sometimes co-operated and worked together to pass legislation on certain bills since I've been here, the short period of time I've been here.

[14:45]

We have worked together on, I guess, finding common ground and co-operating and finding answers and solutions to some of the problems of individuals in our province, and to some of the challenges people face. And sometimes it's not easy; we have our differences as opposition and government. We understand that and I understand that. Individuals.

Here's a piece of legislation where I'm saying could we not slow down, work together, and find some answers? We're not saying that, no we don't have to review this legislation. We have to. We know that and I understand that. And sometimes I've said there are housekeeping items that need to be taken care of. But unfortunately some of these we don't know how they will impact.

And I don't believe the government has truly thought this through. And I don't think they realize how they will be impacted. Men and women that are working in this province are going to be impacted. Students, how they will be impacted. I don't think they've thought this through. For some reason, they're ramming it, ramming it.

And when you get so many people saying, let's slow down. Let's talk about it; let's make sure we understand how it will impact individuals. I don't believe this government truly is taking that to heart. And I don't think they're hearing. And I don't know why they're ramming it down. And again, we've said this — why? Why the push, push, push?

And those are the concerns. And my colleagues have talked about this bill, some of them for quite a length on some of the challenges that they're facing and some of the concerns that the unions have raised — men and women out there, working hard trying to make ends meet. They're worried about what's going on. And when you tell them, well no, they're reviewing that, some people are shocked because they don't understand it. They say, well what are they doing? Why are they doing this? Well we don't know. They're pushing ahead on it for whatever reason. So people are starting to wake up, and they're wondering what's going on.

So I'm hoping the government will slow down, put the brakes on. The minister will say, okay, maybe we've rushed this. But I know this government doesn't like to admit it's made a mistake. It doesn't like to admit it has errors. It just wants to push ahead. It's bullheaded. It wants to push ahead on it. We're going to bulldoze this through, and we're going to make sure that we push this legislation through. And that's pretty sad when it impacts so many people in our province.

And we know, we can talk about the film tax credit. You look what they did there. You look at the chamber and you look at all the different areas that came out and said it was wrong what this government was doing — wrong. Wrong, you've got it wrong. And there's no way they would admit it. They did everything they could to put their head in the sand and say,

we're not going to admit it. We're not going to see it. We're going to look away. And that's pretty sad when you have an industry and all the people that we've lost and have left. And I mean they did such a fine job in the film industry. You know, we heard of all the success and how much money was brought into this province. And now we see what's happened.

And here's another situation where we have that: the government just will not listen. They will not listen to the people. I hope in 2015 when the next election comes on, the people of this province send a message to the government, you know. And it's not a young government any more. They've been here for just about six years running things. I think people are going to start having a look at that. They're not new any more. And some of the mistakes they're making constantly, they are going to pay a price. And humble or not, I think the people will finally get the message, and they will speak. And once they're frustrated . . .

And I've said this before: it's about trust. We are trusted, and we are asked to serve. And the people say, take care. We give you our trust. Take care. And as we're all elected in here, the people put their trust and they put the trust in the government and in the 58 MLAs that you will take care of business.

The official opposition has a role to do, and it has to be effective to bring the challenges that Saskatchewan people are facing. It shouldn't have to always be that way, but unfortunately with this Sask Party government the opposition has to speak for the people because that government will not listen to the people. And that's why you have to have an official, an effective opposition to raise the concerns, the challenges that people are facing out there.

And you talk about a province that has so-called . . . Well they talk about all the different things that they want to sell, but when they take the assets out of our Crowns to balance off their so-called books and you see the way they attack anyone who puts up a fight forwards them, whether it's our Provincial Auditor who is independent . . . So we see that. So I want to use that example to show this bill being rushed through, pushed through, Bill 85 being pushed through the way it is.

We look at other examples of the way they conduct the business of the day and the way they've dealt with other legislation and the way they've pushed ahead. And when somebody does raise concerns to them and stands up to them, well they bully them. And there is many ways that they can bully. And we've seen that here in this House. We've seen that in the province.

Bullies are bullies, and yet we pass legislation that protects from being bullied in schools. We talk about it. We say how important it is. But some people out there feel like that. They feel like they can't raise their concerns to a government because they're worried about what will come back onto them, whether they're in business . . .

So why is it that way? It's wrong. The government needs to hear what the people have to say, and it shouldn't be just insiders within the government that get to tell them whatever they want or special considerations. Here, this is what I want as an insider or a friend. Here's what I would like. It shouldn't be that way. It should make sure that everyone has a right to bring

concerns to government. And this government has truly lost touch, has lost touch, has lost touch with a lot of working men and women of this province, clearly, the taxpayers.

So having said that, Mr. Speaker, referring to Bill 85 and some of the challenges that we see coming forward, clearly there are a lot of concerns. And my colleagues have raised it, and I know there are other organizations, groups who have raised concerns about the rush job and about some of the money being spent on this project. And if they're willing to spend this type of dollars on this project and on this legislation, then why don't they do it right? Let's get it right. Let's not say later . . .

And then, you know, I want to go back into this because I think it's important. We talk about the challenges that will go before the courts because we know that for sure, for sure, some of this legislation, I think there has been rulings on it. And I think some of the legislation that the courts have ruled . . . And the government may have appealed that court ruling, and that's fine. We'll see where it goes at the end of the day and how the courts rule on it.

I hope the courts will look at cases, and I think individuals will, whether it's individuals, organizations, the unions, working men and women of this province that will challenge legislation. And maybe it goes before the courts. And if the courts already have ruled on the essential services legislation . . . The courts ruled on that. And how did the minister handle that? That's going to be his file to deal with. So he knows this.

So let's get it right. Why waste money, hard-earned money? And when you want to spend 92,000 on ads to tell the people of the province to tighten up their belts and that, you know, they spend money on flooring — 22,000 on flooring. Why don't we get it right? Let's not waste hard-earned money that the government has in its coffer that's been entrusted by going to court and having individuals challenge legislation. Let's make sure we get it right.

And I think people are saying that for a reason. Slow down. Take the time. Let's get it right. Let's make sure people agree with it so that we don't have more money spent on fighting and back and forth on a decision that if government would have just slowed down, would have taken the time to consult with working men and women, with the middle class, with our unions, with business whether they're small or big, with the industry, they could have had an opportunity. With the opposition, they could have worked through this thing very effectively. But unfortunately, who knows where this is going to go? Because we don't know all the details, and I think my colleagues have made it very clear and you know, you know, the devil's in the details.

And I think some people are wondering. There's so much being rammed down them and at one time and at such a short period of time. They're asking one simple thing — slow down. Why do we have to push this bill so fast? Slow down. Let's work through it. Let's make sure that it's right for the men and women of this province who are proud to work in this province and who do an excellent job.

So when I talk about the issues that are facing our working men and women . . . and those protection. This legislation has been

developed over years to protect rights. And they may not have all come out in certain time frames and period of time. It took years to develop the legislation to protect workers' rights, whether it's holidays, whether it's working hours. There are a lot of pieces that will need to be discussed and have to be discussed, and it should be working men and women of this province that are the biggest individuals giving advice to government. They're the ones that are being impacted, truly are going to be impacted at the end of the day. So we see the protection.

There's a lot of work to be done. There's more work to be done, but again, I'm going to say this clearly — I'm asking the minister and the government, on behalf of the individuals that have raised concern and asked the official opposition the concerns we've had and our concerns about this, to slow down and take the time to do it right. Slow down and take the time to do it right. Consult stakeholders. Make sure you've got it right. And if you'll do that, again, that's all the people are asking a government to do. Take the time. Do it right. Don't waste our dollars. We entrust you with that, and that is an honour to be entrusted with that.

And I say this clearly to the members opposite. I said this earlier and I'll say it again. They will, election time, they'll do their review. And your record will come out and if you've done a good job, good for you. On behalf of the people, we're supposed to work together in co-operation. I say that to you. We need to work together. But we have to do a better job of consulting, the way this government has not done with many different groups. And I think about the First Nations, the Métis. I think about citizens that are being impacted, individuals that are being impacted by legislation, and the way the government handles it. It doesn't consult, it doesn't talk with individuals. It doesn't take input the way it should be. At one time it might have said we're willing to do certain things but they haven't done that.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues have a lot to say, and on this bill there'll be more comments said. And at this time I'd be prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 85.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 69

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 69** — *The Information Services Corporation Act* 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 speak about *An Act respecting Information Services Corporation*. This particular legislation relates to the Sask Party government's desire to privatize what they see as one of the

insignificant Crown corporations, to see what the public's appetite is for sale of Crown corporations.

And, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House have many, many questions about this particular action. And they go right across the board from the historical important function of a land titles system within the Province of Saskatchewan, both in our history but also in our future, to all the questions that relate to corporate registry and the personal information that may be there in this particular corporation that's being created or this is the way the legislation's being dealt with. So effectively, let's talk about what the legislation is first and then we'll go into some of the questions that are here.

The legislation itself is a bit curious because it has a preamble. And quite often legislation in Saskatchewan will not have a preamble because it's clear in the Act itself what the legislation is all about. But the minister in charge of this particular legislation, and perhaps the Minister of Justice if he's had a hand in this, have realized that the actual legislation itself is problematic. So let's take a look at this preamble. It says, "Whereas it is desirable and in the public interest that voting shares of Information Services Corporation be offered for sale to members of the public."

[15:00]

So they're trying to say, well this is so obvious we'll state it in the preamble. We have not heard any reason for this to be desirable and in the public interest, and so the initial premise in their very first paragraph in their preamble is one that most people in Saskatchewan would have a great deal of difficulty with. And so I want to remind the public that when the Sask Party states in the preamble, the first paragraph, that it's desirable, it appears to be desirable to an agenda of the Premier and the Sask Party government on a bigger issue of privatization of Crown corporations.

And I want to provide a few quotes from some of our illustrious members of this House. And I will go back a few years but I think it's important that we take a look at this. We know that in *The Outlook* news, the member for Arm River-Watrous on February 17th, 2003 said that the Treasury Board Crowns would be sold off when the selling price would reap the best back for the buck. The member for Cypress Hills told *The StarPhoenix* on November 9, 2004 — this is about Saskatchewan transportation corporation — "If we could find a private sector bus operation that would undertake the passenger and freight service that is provided by STC, we would recommend that would happen."

The former member for Melfort, Mr. Rod Gantefoer, told the *Leader-Post* on April 4th, 1998, "They would privatize some Crown corporations." He personally said that they would privatize STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] and SaskTel. The former member for Rosetown, Elwin Hermanson, he said on April 4th, 1999, "I definitely support the sale of STC," and "I think there would be support to sell some more of the Crowns."

Mr. Speaker, in 2008 the former minister responsible for Crowns wrote in ISC's [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] annual report — this is now the present Minister

of the Environment — he wrote in his ISC's annual report that his priority was "to ensure that Saskatchewan's Crown corporations remain publicly owned." Then he goes on: "This is a promise our government made to the people of Saskatchewan, and it is a promise we will keep." And we note that that was in 2008, just after the provincial election of November 2007.

We also go back into 2003 and we have our former member for Weyburn-Big Muddy, Brenda Bakken . . . Brenda Lackey, who told the *Radville Star*, September 10th, 2003, "The other 80-some Crowns will be sold."

Now I raised this and I mentioned the comment made by the present Minister of Environment back in 2008 in the Information Services Corporation's annual report, because the issue of the sale of the Crowns was clearly a point of contention in the upcoming election in the fall of 2007. And so the Premier, our present Premier at that time was the leader of the opposition, was asked by Mr. Mandryk and he said, would you be willing to support the sell-off of some aspects of Crown ownership? And the premier said then, no. And then he subsequently said, "We have said they're not for sale, that they won't be privatized, and that's exactly what we mean."

So, Mr. Speaker, they ran an election in 2007 on this particular issue. In 2011 they also made sure that they downplayed any discussion of this particular issue. And now in, you know, a couple years, well a year and a half later, they are starting this activity to see what the public tolerance is around selling off the Crowns, and they're doing it in kind of a strange way.

And so they put in their preamble that, according to them, "it is desirable and in the public interest that . . . shares . . . be offered for sale to members of the public." So that's that first paragraph in this preamble, and it's directly a breach of the promise of the leader of the opposition — who's now the Premier — prior to the 2007 election, and a breach of a promise as it relates to the 2011 election.

Now the next paragraph in this preamble says:

And whereas it is desirable and in the public interest that the Government of Saskatchewan and Information Services Corporation enter into an agreement to allow Information Services Corporation to continue to act as the service provider for registry activities and functions of the Government of Saskatchewan in accordance with the following principles:

And the first principle:

(a) that the integrity of the registries and the rights and protections currently afforded the public, including the existing government assurance of land titles, will not be adversely affected by the sale of voting shares.

So that's the first paragraph, and I'd like to talk a little bit about that.

While the integrity of the registries and the rights and protections that the public have come to expect are an absolutely crucial part of this province, we know from the information provided in lots of different places — it's the kind

of thing you learn in some of your law classes in high school and in more detail when you go to law school — but ISC, what we're talking about here as it relates to land titles, is an organization that has been built on a long heritage of protecting the rights of the people of Saskatchewan.

And we know that virtually everything that we have developed as newcomers to this land and basically as the immigrants coming onto First Nations land as treaty people, as people who are welcomed because we respect the treaties, much of that is protected and preserved in the land registry system that we have.

And so what we know is that in the late 1800s the Dominion Land Survey was put into place as the railways came across and opened up land on the prairies. And we ended up having a long heritage . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member from Indian Head, the minister who I think has got some responsibility for carriage of this legislation, is yelling from his seat about how this kind of long-term history and concern of the province is going to be protected. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear him say that in very detailed explanations of what the government is going to do, what the government is going to do to make sure that the rights of the Saskatchewan people are protected.

And, Mr. Speaker, we get flim-flam. We get sales kinds of things. We get all kinds of things. But the whole purpose of Crowns is to protect the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, our job as the opposition is to make sure that the yellers and the bullies that we see across the way are put to account to make sure that all of the things that they are doing are done in a fashion which protects the people of Saskatchewan.

And unfortunately, as a long-time member of this legislature, I have grave concerns about the interests of the Premier in this legislation, in the interests of that minister, and that's what I have the right to talk about in here. Now what I don't appreciate is when a member tries to quell my arguments by yelling at me. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's totally inappropriate and I want to continue to talk about this.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Currently the Leader of the Opposition is on his feet debating this bill. Other members will have an opportunity to enter into the debate if they so wish. But this House is a House for debate, and I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Nilson: — So, Mr. Speaker, what we have is legislation that builds on the long tradition of the opening up of the West, is one term that's used. You look at the historians about how land was developed. And so what we have here in Saskatchewan is a place where our ancestors came from all over the world to join the First Nations people who were already here, to basically start farming or start businesses and do various things.

Now one of the precursors or the prerequisites of going and investing money and time and years and decades of our family's history was that you would have security of title, that you would have the security of title in that property. And one of the great characteristics of the opening of the West in Canada

was that that security of title was provided by the government.

Now we all know that the government in Saskatchewan at the time that our land title system was put into place, around some of the initial surveys, was run out of the little stone building over on Dewdney Avenue. And that place basically controlled the North-West Territories, which included northern Quebec, northern Ontario, all the way up to the Arctic Ocean and to Alaska. And those people had the foresight to look around the world and find the best system possible to make sure that security of title could be dealt with in a straightforward fashion.

Not a lot of people in Saskatchewan or Western Canada know that the old methods of transferring title or dealing with title were built on rituals around how you exchanged money for title. And I mean some of them are quite interesting, things like if you wanted to buy a particular piece of land, you would go to the person who said they own it. They'd look at all of the information that they had in their possession because it was their deeds and titles. You'd walk around the boundary of the land and one of the . . . Sometimes they would pick up a sack of dirt from the land and hand it to you as a symbol that this is what we were doing. Often then you would get a deed signed by them saying, yes, I assure you that I have title to this land. I'm transferring it to you and I am giving it to you.

What happened in Saskatchewan is we adopted a system that had been developed in South Australia by Mr. Torrens which said the registry is the guarantee of your title, not that your title is registered. And it's important to note that distinction, because what it meant then was you could be given a number or a description which we all . . . People who've lived in Saskatchewan a long time know, you know, the northeast quarter of section 3 township and range. All of those kinds of numbers are crucial. But what it meant was, it referred back to the land registry which is the subject of our legislation now. And that land registry was guaranteed to all of the people as being run by the province of Saskatchewan.

Now the preamble of this particular bill sets out, in a clear fashion, that that's the goal — to maintain that integrity. But it's one where all of a sudden we don't know where that registry might be or who's going to own that registry. There's some, some . . . And so there's questions. And that's why I'm discussing or raising these issues about the history of how our land has been developed.

[15:15]

Now what we know is that the federal government, who was responsible for the North-West Territories, hired great teams of surveyors to come out and survey the land. And they started just west of Winnipeg because they figured everything west of that first or prime meridian just west of Winnipeg was unoccupied land. Now that's not accurate, because clearly it was treaty land and there were First Nations people who were living in various parts of it.

But there were vast tracts of land that were . . . where it would be possible to use that for agriculture. And so then these survey teams went out, and using the Torrens method, which had also been used south of the border in the States, set out our present system that we have, which basically provides four things.

Conclusive evidence of ownership, so in other words, the government's going to guarantee your title based on the description. It also guarantees that there'll be a simple way to transfer ownership if you want to sell this asset that you've acquired. For many of the new people who moved to the West, this was an adventure. They weren't certain whether this was the kind of place or the kind of opportunity that they wanted, so they wanted to know that if they invested time and effort in homesteading — which took a lot of effort — that they could, once they got title, transfer that to somebody else. And then basically be repaid for the years of work that they'd spent trying to prove up the homestead. So the facility transfer, the guarantee or the ability to transfer was absolutely important.

There was also part of this system which said every title, every piece of land needed to be registered. And that also then meant that there weren't all the side deals or you couldn't . . . You knew that if somebody was coming to you under the old method of showing you the deeds and doing all that kind of system like they still had in Ontario or other parts of Canada, you knew that something was wrong because they weren't following the rules that were under this new land titles system.

And then the final important part of this was that there was an assurance fund. And effectively I don't think it had any money in it, but it was a guarantee that the province, or before that the Territory, the federal government would compensate you if in some way there was an error in the system. Now we know for 130 years of history around the assurance fund that there weren't that many errors that occurred that required compensation, and that's, I think, still the case because people were careful in how they did this.

So you had a system that would encourage settlers to come to the West and settle on this land. You assured them that there was a system, and this was a new, modern system brought in from Australia and then spread around the world, and it gave you the ability to work hard, buy land, or prove up your homestead or your land. And then if something happened and you had to get out, you could have a way to transfer it on to somebody else. And so we had this system of providing that. And so what this particular legislation then has done is built on that long history and that long part of the trust as it relates to the land titles system.

Now when the surveys were completed on the prairies, we know that they used the best technology that they had available at the time. And a lot of the first surveys were done, people on horses, and they carried the chains around and they measured. And anybody who's had farm land in Saskatchewan knows that when they started doing the digital maps from the satellites and looked at the fencelines and looked at other boundaries and property that there were some discrepancies that those old systems had, but there's an agreement or there's a method of dealing with those discrepancies within the system that we have. And nowadays, as I say, the satellite imaging and others, GPS [global positioning system] systems, have just changed the whole world.

So what happened . . . And the reason I think that I could probably speak on this one for a few days if necessary is that when I became the minister of Justice and Attorney General in 1995, this was a challenge that was there for us because we had

a huge paper-based system that was very accurate because of the diligence of the employees within the system in the offices spread across the province. And it was complemented with the legal survey, the surveyor's office. So you had the land titles and the surveyor's offices that checked everything that every lawyer did, or if individuals might have dealt with their own land that they did, so that there were very few errors following that old system. But it was very cumbersome, and it took lots of time and there was delay.

And so in 1995, we started a land project which the goal was to spend some time effectively automating the whole land titles system. The acronym was LAND, L-A-N-D, and it was Land Titles Automated Network Development. And it was exciting in some ways, but also we knew that there was a challenge because there were so many hundreds of thousands of documents that needed to be put into a format that could be part of a digital system, and over the years, the work was done to get that process in place. It wasn't totally completed in 2000 when the Information Services Corporation was created to specifically deal with land titles issues, but the goal at that point was that the conversion, as we called it, the transfer of the paper documents into electronic form would continue and that there would also be a whole effort to look at the old processes, which we just automated, and see whether there could be some other ways to do things.

In that time, there were lots of difficulties. I don't think there's any question about that. But there was some very good advice given from the legal profession, from the surveyors, from people who use the system. The realtors were very much watching this. And after, you know, a few years, this system became better at doing what it did, which was to provide the security for title, and the speed of doing it was increased dramatically.

And now I don't think there are complaints about how long it takes in the transfer of title. I don't think there are complaints about the fact that you can look and review Saskatchewan transactions from anywhere in the world where you have access to a computer. And that's made a big difference for businesses that are located in the province but also ones from outside of the province.

So there's a whole legacy of important activity that relates to the security of title for Saskatchewan people, and I would say maybe in even a grander way for security of title for those people who are involved with resource extraction whether it's oil and gas or mining or whatever.

Now I know when I started practising law in Saskatchewan in 1978, that one of the more interesting but also more challenging jobs was to provide opinions on title. And the number one group that wanted opinions on titles were the banks that were lending monies to pipeline companies because they said it quite simply, if we lend money to build a pipeline that's 300 or 500 miles — it goes right across Saskatchewan — we don't want to find out that that money that we've lent to that company, that they haven't done their proper work and in fact don't have the right to put the pipeline through one lot or one quarter on the 300 miles because a pipeline's useless if it's stopped somewhere in the middle.

And so we would spend a lot of time going through the records right back to the original field notes sometimes to make sure that the titles were all appropriate. Now you would keep doing that, and you develop methods. But a lot of younger lawyers would end up in places in land titles offices across the province as they were at that point. I know in the '40s and '50s, with the initial oil boom, that many young lawyers spent months in the Arcola Court House.

And so what we have, Mr. Speaker, in this legislation is this accumulation of information and historical tradition but also trust. It's trust around how this system works. And, Mr. Speaker, when in the preamble to this legislation — which, as I said before, is a bit unusual — they have to try to go and talk about these things as it relates to these protections that we already know that we have, they know, they know that people are concerned that they are selling off a part of something which is important to Saskatchewan people, that we want control of it here in Saskatchewan. And so what we know is that they have this concern that we will continue to ask about.

And that's why I'm spending some time talking about this. Because I don't know if all of the members opposite totally understand what the minister and the Premier are up to with this particular legislation.

Because then when you go to . . . They want to set out all of these things. Now it says in the preamble "that the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to own all information, records and other data now or hereafter stored in the registries."

Now where will these registries be located? Now I'm not sure that . . . Like what if this information for commercial purposes is stored in North Dakota or in India or some other part of the world? What effect is this law or this preamble going to have on the concern that we have about where this information is? This is a question that needs some better answers than what we have here.

And what they also knew . . . Because what happened when the Information Services Corporation got the electronic information from land titles mostly done in the sense of the conversion, it also then went around and looked at other things that the governments were responsible for. That included lots of documents that were, some of them, quite old. And so the conversions took place in some other areas, which are things like corporate registries, things like personal property security registries, other registries like that. And those now, since 2001 when the ISC was created, have become more and more a part of this information company.

But the planned rollover of information from vital statistics has gone over now from the Department of Health to this Crown corporation. In the preamble they say is, well we know that you're worried about that private information, so we're going to roll it back again, even though when we rolled it forward, rolled it the other way, we did it because we thought it made most sense for the public of Saskatchewan and that it was an efficient way to manage that information.

[15:30]

Now I think the most efficient way to manage all of the

information that is of concern to Saskatchewan people is to withdraw this bill and keep ISC as a corporation owned by the citizens of Saskatchewan through the provincial government. And these particular items that they put in their preamble are the ones that they know are the places where people have concern. And so what's happened is that in the preamble, which I say is an unusual kind of a tactic to use in legislation, they are attempting to I guess use their normal sort of public relations kind of spin to start it off and say, well, oh don't worry. This is all going to be okay because this is our understanding of how this is going to work. And so, Mr. Speaker, it raises the question, well what's actually in the legislation?

Now what happens in initial public offerings in companies, which is what we have here, is quite a number of different things. But one of the important parts about going to the public and asking them to invest money in your company is to assure them that they're actually buying something or a share in something that will mean that you get the full value of what you're buying. So when this proposal came out, it had this 40 per cent or whatever, I think it's 40 per cent overhang or share by the government on this initial round of selling this.

Now this is very similar to the way that the Devine government privatized companies in the late '80s. And I think if you go and look at how they went ahead with some of those sales, they ended up selling lots of shares to the Saskatchewan people who had the money to buy the shares, and they did it by keeping a share in the provincial government. Now I don't know if it was quite 40 per cent. It would depend on which sale it was. But eventually the advice would come to the provincial government that that share, whether it's 10 per cent or 25 per cent or 40 per cent, is an overhang on the market. It's a cloud on the value of these shares. Well, Mr. Speaker, if it's a cloud on the value of those shares after they've been issued, it's a cloud on the value of the shares when they're sold in the first place.

And so, Mr. Speaker, that goes right to the heart of the question of, if you're going to sell a public asset, why would you sell it in a way that you'd get less than what it's worth when you sell it?

An Hon. Member: — Why don't you sell 100 per cent. Is that what you want, John?

Mr. Nilson: — And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, the member from Indian Head who has a lot of interest in this situation said, you should sell 100 per cent. Well that's exactly the point. If you're going to sell off something then what you do is you sell the full thing because then you're going to get full value for it. But you don't sell it off in a way that is conditional.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am fundamentally opposed to this sale for all of the reasons I've been talking about because of the fact that this information in this corporation and the services that it provides are one of the key parts of the province of Saskatchewan's responsibility to the people of this province. It goes right to the heart of how the economy is supported. It goes right to the heart of how the people are willing to invest their time and their years and their effort into acquiring property in this province. And it goes right to the heart of who we are as Saskatchewan people.

And, Mr. Speaker, for what appear to be crass, political, and maybe sneaky policies by that minister and by that Premier, they are trying to test the waters around privatizing something that people don't totally understand. But, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we understand what they're doing. We understand the importance of this for the province of Saskatchewan, and we're going to continue to ask questions. We're going to continue to raise the concerns of the public about this particular legislation.

Now there's a point made by the minister and by the Premier, well this company can't really go and sell its services at other places because it's a Saskatchewan Crown corporation. Well we do it with SGI. SGI provides services. SGI Canada provides services across the country. SaskPower has partnerships working in other provinces on some of its projects. And we know from looking around the world that Crown corporations or state-owned corporations from all over the world like to come to Saskatchewan, like to come to Western Canada and participate in our economy because we have rules. We have local control of things like land titles and the things that make sure that it's a secure, good place to make investments.

And so, Mr. Speaker, some of the arguments that the members opposite have used, as it relates to the necessity of doing this for trying to sell this product other places, really beg the question: do they have some kind of a sale somewhere? I know, as a minister when we initially set this up, we weren't certain what other provinces were going ahead with something similar to this. But we thought, well there may be some places that would be interested in this kind of information and using that. But when we looked over the years, we knew that every jurisdiction had some of its own issues that had to be dealt with locally. But we also knew that most smart jurisdictions, smart governments didn't want to lose the control of this type of information and this type of service provided to their people.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we know right now, for example, that the federal government is working in the Ukraine, taking Canadian information and helping them set up a secure land titles system in their country to allow for appropriate local investment and also international investment. That's something that our federal government is doing together with people who are involved in this type of business. I don't think our ISC is involved in that project, but I know other provinces' land title systems and the systems of geographical information are working on that kind of thing.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of gaps in the information, and that's why we have this preamble which tries to gloss over all that stuff and say, oh don't you worry. Don't you worry about these things because you can trust us. We know what we're doing. Well unfortunately we don't know what they're doing. We don't trust their PR [public relations]. We don't trust their press releases, and we're having difficulty with their legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that our job in this legislature, both on the government side, in the government caucus and on the opposition side, is to ask questions of the executive — and in this case it's the Premier and the minister in charge of this — about what they're doing, why they're doing it. And they need to be transparent; they need to tell the public what they're doing.

I don't think what they're doing here is in the long-term interests of our province. I think it's short-sighted thinking. I think it's so clouded up in their political sense of the last three elections. I think it's the 2003 election that really clouds their judgment on this particular one because they were so convinced — and especially that member from Indian Head — that they were going to win that election and it didn't happen. And so there were another four years where he developed his yelling skills which he's used here this afternoon.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we need to do here in this particular case is to make sure that the interests of Saskatchewan people are protected, and it's the interests of all of the residents of Saskatchewan. It's not just homeowners. It's not just farmers. It's the interests of everybody who has a job in Saskatchewan because you don't want to have something where further control of our space, our province, has been transferred off to some other part of Canada or the world. And, Mr. Speaker, the arguments made by the government, by the Premier, and by the minister as it relates to this particular legislation are suspect. They're more on the line of trying to sell something. And they started right off with the slick brochure preamble on the front of it, and we're going to be asking questions about how this legislation works.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that there doesn't appear to be the right reason for passing this legislation. It appears to me, as I said when I started, that this is an attempt to sell something off that's crucial for Saskatchewan people but do it in a way that they're lulled into thinking that it doesn't matter to them. And nothing could be further from the truth. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to adjourn debate on this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 69, *The Information Services Corporation Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 48** — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2012* 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. I'm glad to rise this afternoon to join in debate on Bill No. 48, *An Act to amend The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

Now this one's pretty interesting, Mr. Speaker, because of course there's a bit of recycling in here, which I guess is thematically appropriate. You know, cue the recycling joke in the environmental file bill. But it's also interesting for what is not contained here or what has happened in the file generally, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now in terms of what the Act itself is calling for, bringing Saskatchewan legislation in line with what is put out by the feds and making sure that, for example, in the new provision 62.1(1):

In order to enter into an equivalency agreement, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) requires a citizen's investigation power to exist in provincial legislation as a legal requirement. *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* does not currently include such provisions. This amendment allows any Saskatchewan resident over the age of 18 to apply for an investigation into a matter they believe to have been a contravention against *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*, its related regulations, or the Environmental Code.

And you know, lest it be said that I'm always critical and negative, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I actually think this is a good proposal in the midst of a broader piece of legislation. But again, it's been demanded by the federal government to come into compliance in this particular sector of the regulatory regime when it comes to the environment. But again, having that ability for citizens to initiate investigations for matters where there's a believed or perceived to have been a contravention of the Act itself, I think it is actually an enrichment.

And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, while I think on the face of it, it's a good thing to see, so much depends on not just the legislation, but the regulation as well that is brought into place. So is this in fact just a light in the window or is it, will it be accessible and meaningful, and will citizens be able to avail themselves of these opportunities? It of course remains to be seen.

And again one of the frustrations we have, Mr. Speaker, is oftentimes what is brought forward as legislation is pretty much the tip of the iceberg. And whether or not that iceberg is a slender icicle underneath the water's surface or a more substantial thing depends on the regulations.

[15:45]

So how people are able to avail themselves with this power remains to be seen. But if it's . . . You know, it sounds pretty good in the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And again, I think this is actually a positive thing in terms of federal-provincial co-operation, and glad to see it in the package. But again, does the overall package fit the bill?

I guess the next amendments, in terms of what's being put forward in the legislation itself, the new provision 62.1(2), the explanation states:

This amendment is necessary because it contains what information should be contained in the application for an investigation. *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* requires this provision so that information can be gathered about the alleged offence for investigation purposes.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, bringing forward the terms under

which applicants might engage in this legislation, and again we'll see how this works out around regulations. We'll see how this works out in terms of actual uptake. We'll see how this works out in the regime that's currently in place. Again working through what is put forward by the ministry around the legislation, further sort of technical details around the citizen investigation aspect — and again, you know, all seemingly reasonable propositions that it remains to be seen how they'll be taken up and utilized, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the proof of course is in the pudding.

But again on some of these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's about as well taking it from the source and not just the current legislation in front of us, which I would submit is not exactly earth-shattering or going to shake Mother Earth too significantly. You know, it seems to be reasonable in terms of greater opportunity for citizens to hold government to account. But taking these things from the source, when it comes to the environment — and I say this full well aware and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you as a former Environment critic for the then official opposition would be well aware of the imperfection on the records of the government of the day which I was part of and proud to be part of, imperfections and all, Mr. Deputy Speaker — there were some things I think that we as government got right, and I think there's some things that we needed to do a better job of.

And one of the challenges I know that preoccupied much of the last decade and continues to in a certain vein to this day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the whole file of climate change and what Saskatchewan is doing to manage greenhouse gas emissions and what is our role both on a national and international basis and how that all comes together. Certainly this is, we're told, some of the Premier's, some of his talking points down in Washington as he goes to make the ethical oil case for Saskatchewan. And we'll see how that works out. And there are some things that are not bad to make the case for, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly the Premier's a fairly forceful, eloquent communicator, and I'm sure he's doing his best there to make the case.

But there are some other things in terms of our record and in terms of what's happened in the province of Saskatchewan that are less than conducive to a great sell job when it comes to Saskatchewan as a green champion. And certainly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember well the 2007 election. I certainly remember sharing a platform with the Sask Party representatives at the University of Regina, and the Sask Party platform at the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was, you know, the emission reduction targets set by the NDP, you know, we're on board for those. The climate change fund that has been secured to the tune of \$300 million, we're in favour of that as well. And, you know, it's interesting to see how things are campaigned on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and then how they translate after the campaign is over and after a government takes charge.

So the emission targets that had been signed on to by the members opposite and by the then new government of course were not met and were revised downward, downward, and downward. And there were games played with, you know, problem solving through redefinition, trying to juke the stats as they might say in *The Wire*, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But in terms of real action, in terms of climate change reduction, not so

much. And when it came to the climate change fund and with \$300 million that were in the climate change fund . . . And I hear my colleague from Saskatoon Silver Springs, the current Minister for the Environment across the way. And it's difficult not to hear him, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because he's usually got one, one level on the volume there, but I'm hearing him nice and clear. But you know, he's an honourable person in his place, and I'm sure he would own up to the fact that the campaign in 2007 by the Sask Party said one thing and then after they got elected did another.

And in terms of signing on to the climate change fund and saying that that was something they'd carry forward with, you know, it's . . . I know they said a lot of things on the campaign trail, Mr. Speaker, but I was there at the University of Regina debating one of that member's colleagues when that person said that, yes, this is something we're in favour of, because of course it was a university audience. And maybe that member was reflecting a tendency on the part of the Sask Party to try and tell people what they wanted to hear or what they thought they wanted to hear.

And in that regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it reminds me as well of a talk I heard from a then Conservative strategist, a fellow by the name Tom Flanagan, for the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy, talking about the 2006 campaign on the part of the Harper Conservatives. And he said, you know, is there any press in the room, when it came to a question about the environment. And of course there wasn't. And the member from Cypress Hills was there at the same time as well listening to this lecture. And what the member, what Mr. Flanagan had to say at the time was, you know, when it came to the environment we knew that we just really needed a light in the window. We needed to have something to say but, you know, did we really mean it? Well not so much. And I guess we see that being played out on the federal stage in terms of the different gyrations that have gone on federally in terms of, you know, do they even think climate change is a real problem? And you know, there are days where it would be an interesting question to ask every member of this place, whether or not they think that's a real concern or if it's something that's just a myth or what the climate change deniers would like us to believe.

But Flanagan said in that seminar at the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy that the Conservatives needed to have something, a light in the window. They needed to have something to say. They didn't necessarily need to mean it all that much. And you know, there was lots of snickering and tittering about that. But when he was saying that, Mr. Speaker, it was after the 2007 election. And for me that certainly resonated with the experience I had had debating one of the members opposite in terms of the Sask Party plan when it came to the environment.

And they said, when they talked about climate change reduction, they're like yes, us. When it came to the climate change fund, they're like, you know, sign us up. And it didn't take very long after the election for that to go by the wayside, Mr. Speaker, for the \$300 million fund to be chopped down to 30 million, and then for that \$30 million fund to — you know, in the branding of Go Green and all this — to eventually be gone and to be eliminated from the government program offerings altogether.

So that's one part of the record of the members opposite when it comes to bringing forward the measures such as the one we're debating today. Again this is largely in response to the federal regulatory regime to get in compliance. And the specific measure in this legislation, again I would submit, is not bad. But it's, you know, you've got a not bad measure alongside a record of inaction and confusion, and it's a lot of bafflegab and double-talk, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so what's a voting legislator to do?

One thing that is interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we will see how this plays out down the line, is the work that has been done on carbon capture and sequestration. And again I agree with the proposition that if this technology can be seized and harnessed for particularly a place like Saskatchewan with, you know, hundreds of years of lignite on hand in terms of supply, if you can take the emissions out of the equation when it comes to burning coal for producing energy, it certainly, you know, there's certainly a benefit to be had there. And again if you can use the CO₂ that is gathered from the process in terms of enhanced oil recovery, that's again I think a benefit that bears study.

And we watch with great interest what happens with SaskPower and the project down at Boundary, Mr. Speaker. And we're also quite aware that, you know, this hasn't been a straight line, but there certainly was an NDP government in power when . . . and worked as a helpful partner, I think, at the time in terms of the work that was done in the Apache field around Midale and the sort of pioneering work that was done around carbon capture and sequestration and again, as I've said, with the enhanced oil recovery.

These are some of the things that we look to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we also register with concern the inaction when it comes to emissions reduction. We come to it with concern when we see what should be really interesting projects, particularly on the power generation side of things. What's happening with First Nations and the First Nations power generation authority? Again that could be a really positive project. And we welcome announcements like the one that was made with the folks up at Fond-du-Lac — again a neck of the woods that I know you're familiar with, Mr. Deputy Speaker, around Elizabeth Falls — and using smaller scale hydro to generate power.

But you know, again, you see something like that be announced and the kind of hopefulness that that entails, not just for a cleaner, greener way of producing energy but for engaging First Nations people in the economy. You see something like the Elizabeth Falls project, and you weigh that up alongside what's happening on James Smith. And of course the James Smith project was signed with much fanfare and ballyhoo here in this legislature. And what has become of the project with James Smith, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

And again the same sort of promise and hope of engaging First Nations in the economy and in power generation for a cleaner, greener form of hydro energy. Again you know, notionally, on the ideas of these things, on the principles of these things, these, they're very exciting and very interesting and very hopeful. But it's on the follow-through, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have our questions. And again for every announcement that is made,

it's a debt unpaid, to crib Robert Service, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we see the debts racking up over on the other side of the legislature, in terms of again the things that sound great coming out of the gates. But it doesn't take too long to think, you know, well whatever the heck happened to that?

So again the particulars of this piece of legislation, you know, good, bad, or indifferent — we could debate the merits of them — but there's always a context to these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the context doesn't say a lot of great things about the record of this government when it comes to the environment.

And I know that other of my colleagues have participated in this debate. I think I've got a few to go on this, but I'm sure they will have more to say on these matters. But with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 48, *An Act to amend The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 48, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the attendance by members of the farewell celebration for the Leader of the Opposition who will be vacating that position after this weekend, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:00.]

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