



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

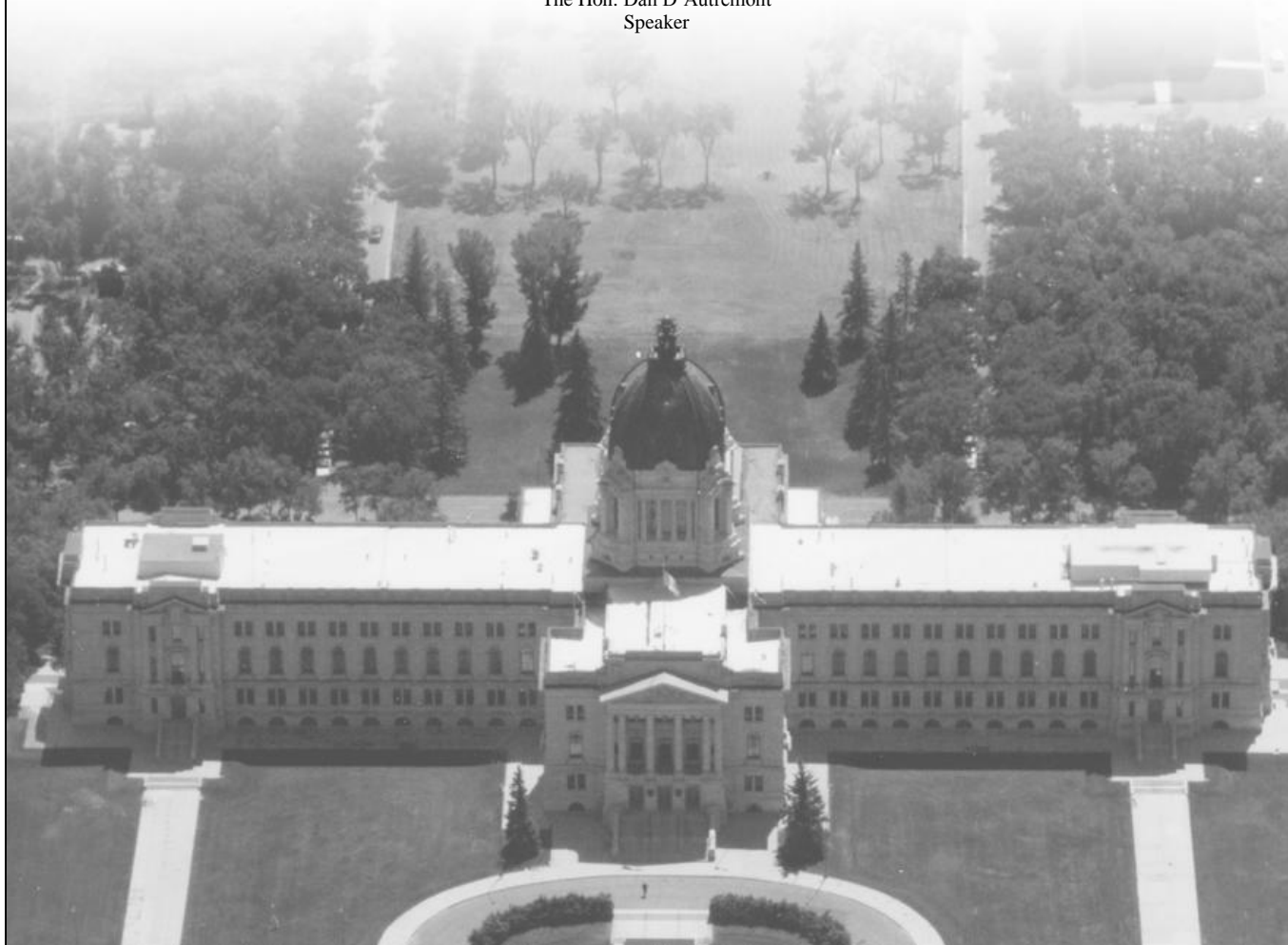
of the

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 — Cam Broten

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 Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There'll be formal introductions of some very special guests who are seated on the floor, recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, Mr. Speaker, but if I can in a very general way welcome them and their family members and friends to their Legislative Assembly, their leisure centre, today. They'll understand that inside joke, Mr. Speaker.

You know, it's a special day in the life of this legislature when we can take a break and honour those who are literally heroes in their communities right across the province, who are very generous with their time and efforts and give back to Saskatchewan in any number of ways. And, Mr. Speaker, today was no exception. We heard citations that make us marvel at the quality of people that live here and understand more fully why Saskatchewan is such a great place. So, Mr. Speaker, we do want to welcome them.

The poet Edwin Markham said, "We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life." Today we honour those in our province who have done precisely that. And I, like many other members of this Assembly, look forward to meeting them again individually as the afternoon proceeds. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to welcome these Saskatchewan heroes, recipients of the Volunteer Medal, their friends and family to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier and welcome the recipients and their families here to the Assembly today. The ceremony that we had this morning was a special time, and it reminded us of the many people in this province that contributed in so many ways, helping so many people. And the individuals recognized today, Mr. Speaker, come from varied backgrounds, varied places here in the province, but they share a desire to make Saskatchewan the best possible place. They share a desire to help their neighbours. And, Mr. Speaker, they provide an example to each of us here and to everyone in the province. So on behalf of the opposition, we thank you so much for your service, and we look forward to your contributions in the years to come as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — It is my privilege to introduce Phyllis Cameron, also known as the cinnamon bun lady, and as I learned at lunch, the teddy bear grandma, from the constituency of Cannington who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Master Corporal (retired) Leslie Good from the constituency of Moose Jaw Wakamow who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Colonel (retired) Charles Keple from the constituency of Regina Douglas Park who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the legislature Ms. Namarta Kochar from the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Jim Leskun from the constituency of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Thank you very much, Jim.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to introduce Mr. André Moquin from the constituency of Wood River who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Mr. Dennis Sanderson from the constituency of Cumberland who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce Joan Wilson from the constituency of Melville-Saltcoats who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you 43 grade 12 students from Winston Knoll Collegiate in Regina. Accompanying the 43 students is their teacher, Ms. Kim Lawrence, and the vice-principal, Mrs. Krystal McPherson. And I will have an opportunity to get together with the students after question period and share in their thoughts about our question period. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce my friend the Hon. Chuck Strahl who's joining us here today. Chuck was a Member of Parliament for the constituency of Chilliwack from 1993 till 2011. He was successful in six consecutive election campaigns. He served as minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, minister of Transport, and minister of Agriculture. And he was in the city today for a prayer breakfast, and I had . . . When I was in Ottawa, it was a great learning opportunity, but the best part was the people that I got to meet and Chuck is definitely one of those. So I would ask all members of the Assembly to welcome Chuck here today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Martensville in welcoming Mr. Strahl to the Assembly. I hope he has a good visit here to our province.

I also want to introduce another individual seated behind the bar, Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Comer who was a member of the Assembly from 1971 to '75 representing the constituency of Nipawin. And it's a pleasure to have him here in the legislature as well today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join the Opposition Leader in welcoming John Comer to the legislature. John Comer lived in Carrot River. He lived right across the street from me. And he also did a very admirable job of being the mayor of Carrot River for some time — a great person. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses seated in your gallery, Ms. Rosalee Longmoore, as well as members of her family including her children, Ashley, Dylan, and Savannah. Mr. Speaker, after 15 years of leading SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], Ms. Longmoore will retire later this week, although retirement's maybe not the best word to use.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce her and thank her for all the work that she has done on behalf of nurses and the health care system in our province. Mr. Speaker, she has been a tireless, dedicated advocate for nurses in this province, both as a front-line nurse herself as well as the many years she served as SUN president. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Health minister in welcoming Ms. Rosalee Longmoore along with her family, and Donna Ottenson as well who are here in the Assembly. Rosalee has had a long and distinguished career here in the province and has contributed greatly, representing the concerns of her members, but also advocating

for the health care system. And so I want to thank Rosalee for the work that she has done and wish her all the best in the next steps forward. And I'm sure as a well-known person in the province, perhaps better known than many of us who occupy these chairs here, Mr. Speaker, many people in the province would also wish her all the best in the years ahead. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of introducing some very important guests from Saskatchewan's disability community. Joining us here today are Merv Bender who is executive director of the Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre; Mr. Ian Wilkinson, executive director of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council; Mr. Daryl Stubel, the director of the office of disabilities for the Ministry of Social Services; Judy Hannah, with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living; and special guest Mr. David Swan from Saskatoon; and Ms. Gayle Dixon and her dog Daisy, also from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of celebrating an important milestone this morning with these individuals where we now have over 10,000 individuals receiving SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] benefits. The SAID program not only improves the quality of life for people with disability, but it does offer them dignity and independence that we believe they deserve. I thank the disability community for their help in designing the program. Our government is committed to making Saskatchewan the best place for people to live that have disabilities. I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming these very important guests to their legislature.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister on behalf of the opposition in welcoming the folks from the disability community here on the floor of the Chamber today who've worked so hard in collaboration with the government, making sure that the SAID program gets off the ground. But not just that, that the implementation of it works as it should for all those people who benefit from the program. So a big thank you to the folks here today.

And I have to give a special shout-out to Judy Hannah. Actually Judy Hannah is an individual who . . . She was my boss several years ago when I was finishing my social work degree and doing my practicum at SACL [Saskatchewan Association for Community Living]. And Judy I consider a friend and someone who helps me better understand disability issues in Saskatchewan. So thank you and welcome on behalf of the opposition.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two individuals in your gallery and one on the floor. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery, Mr. Scott Simpkins, a good friend of mine who helped out at the leadership breakfast this

morning. In front of him — just give us a wave, Steve — is Mr. Steve Berg with the Christian Embassy of Canada leader impact group out of British Columbia. He was the host of the leadership breakfast this morning.

I'd like to join in with the member from Martensville and welcome Mr. Hon. Chuck Strahl to the Legislative Assembly. Chuck was our main speaker at the leadership breakfast this morning. A very inspiring speech on faith in the public square, which I think all of us in this Assembly and even in business could take some lessons from. So I'd ask all members to welcome these individuals to this Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Before we proceed, I would like to remind all of our guests, while I welcome all of you to the Assembly, to the Chamber, not to participate in the events on the floor, and that includes applause. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today to present a petition in reference to cellphone coverage in the Northwest. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned time and time again, the people that have signed this petition asking for cellphone coverage for these communities have signed the petition from all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, the people are primarily from Dillon, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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 study and comparison have been carried out in the interest of due diligence. Stable labour relations in all sectors run the risk of being thrown into turmoil as a result of Bill 85's sweeping changes. Thousands of represented workers stand to lose their rights to bargain collectively and be represented by the union of their choice. Mr. Speaker, 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, the people signing this petition come from Prince Albert, Birch Hills, and Melfort. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Boston Marathon Support Run

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this Sunday morning I was proud to join with community for the Boston support run in Regina. Running is often a solitary activity but it is surrounded by an incredibly supportive community. They cheer each other on and they encourage each other as they face challenges. This was on full display on Sunday.

The run was organized by Gay Renouf, Jen Ruland, their running team, Marathon Matters, along with Renae Grubb, also with help from the Jaleta Pacers, the Regina Road Runners, and the Regina Multisport Club.

Mr. Speaker, when tragic events like the bombings in Boston happen, we are often left feeling helpless and unsure of how to demonstrate our compassion for all those impacted. Gay described her motivations for organizing the run by saying, I quote:

We decided to run because what else can we do? We are runners. Our forte is endurance and we endure and we show that we can get through a tough time and we keep on running.

Prior to the run, the individuals who participated in this year's Boston Marathon were introduced, followed by a moment of silence for the victims. And, Mr. Speaker, many members of the running community came out to show their support, including Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame inductee Ted Jaleta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking the organizers of the Boston Support Run for providing Regina the opportunity to come together and share our grief and support for Boston. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

National Volunteer Week

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise today to recognize that this week is National Volunteer Week. Mr. Speaker, volunteers come from all walks of life. What they have in common is their desire to make a difference in their neighbourhood, their community, in the province of Saskatchewan, in their own life by giving of their time and expertise. Volunteers are active in all of our province's

communities. We all know who they are, and no doubt each and every one of us and our families have benefited from their goodwill. Across our province they deliver services and programs that improve and enhance the quality of life for our province's people.

According to SaskCulture's website, Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of volunteerism in the country. They are involved in virtually every aspect of society including health, education, sports, the arts, public safety, and the environment. Volunteer Week highlights these contributions and encourages all of us to think about how we can help also.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing and thanking the many volunteers across our great province, including the outstanding individuals who joined us here earlier on. Your work truly helps make Saskatchewan a better place and is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Online Tour of Cultural Landmark

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, individuals no longer need to be in Saskatoon in order to take a tour of Third Avenue United Church. Thanks to CyArk world heritage database, individuals will be able to tour this historic site online from the comfort of their own homes at cyark.org.

The Third Avenue United Church, thanks to a partnership between Stantec, Tourism Saskatoon, Third Avenue Centre, and CyArk, are now among 100 major world historical landmarks archived online. Celebrating 100 years of history, the Third Avenue United Church is a significant architectural landmark in Saskatoon, and we are proud to share that history with the international community.

Two years ago, the Third Avenue Centre was formed with the goal of preserving the Third Avenue United Church as a historic cultural landmark as well as ensuring that this incredible venue remained an important part of the cultural and creative community in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to attend many events at the Third Avenue Church, and this facility is an excellent venue to display the cultural vibrancy and diversity in our city. There have been performances by the Amati Quartet, the Saskatoon Symphony, Duke Ellington, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the members of this House to take the time to explore the Third Avenue United Church online or in person. Saskatoon has an incredible cultural history, and this is a great opportunity to share it with the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

University of Saskatchewan Appoints New Chancellor

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the University of Saskatchewan senate appointed Mr. Blaine Favel to succeed Dr. Vera Pezer as U of S

[University of Saskatchewan] chancellor. Mr. Favel earned a Bachelor of Education degree from the U of S, a law degree from Queen's University, and a Master's of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business. And in 2012, Mr. Speaker, the U of S awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

He is an influential First Nations leader and is the first Aboriginal chancellor for the U of S. He was chief of the Poundmaker Cree Nation and served as grand chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations from 1994 to 1998. During that time, Mr. Speaker, he led the development of the First Nations Bank of Canada and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. He served as a special adviser to the Assembly of First Nations and was a panellist on the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

I also want to recognize the fine work that Dr. Pezer did as the 13th chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan and thank her for all she did for the university.

Mr. Speaker, as the 14th chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Favel brings a wealth of experience, skills, and dedication to the position. I would like to extend my congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Disability Program Marks Milestone

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to share some great news about the Saskatchewan assured income for disability program or SAID. The SAID program now has over 10,000 people receiving benefits. This is definitely a reason to celebrate.

It was back in October 2009 that the SAID program was first introduced, a very proud day for members of the disability community and this government. This program was born out of a desire from the disability community to have a separate income support program, a program that not only improves the quality of life for people with disabilities but also offers them the dignity and independence that they deserve.

Under SAID, people with significant and enduring disabilities have more control of their finances and circumstances rather than being managed by the rules and structures of welfare. In addition to expanding enrolment, we are also substantially increasing SAID benefits over four years.

Mr. Speaker, through programs like SAID, we are working hard to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities. We want to thank all of our partners and friends in the disability community once again for their assistance and ongoing support in making this program a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Increased Funding for Rural Physician Locum Pool

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to call my colleagues' attention to our government's continuing commitment to improve access to physician services for all Saskatchewan residents. Today we increased funding for a program that is bringing physicians to rural communities. Mr. Speaker, we're providing \$3 million for the rural physician locum pool. This represents a funding increase of \$1.5 million over last year.

Mr. Speaker, locum physicians temporarily fulfill the duties of physicians who are away from their practice. This year all health regions will receive funding for a full-time position to provide relief services within their region. Since the program started last year, locum physicians have helped stabilize physician services in rural communities such as Maple Creek, Leader, Shaunavon, Kelvington, Kipling, Maidstone, Balcarres, and La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, the rural locum pool supports our growth plan goal of ensuring that health services are available to all Saskatchewan residents. This is one of a variety of initiatives that will help us attract and keep more doctors in underserved communities, and we look forward to seeing its continued positive results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Leader's Views

Mr. Hickie: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP [New Democratic Party] leader just can't seem to keep his story straight. He admits the NDP's policy on First Nations resource revenue sharing was a big problem in the last election. But then he says he supports that policy.

He said he wanted to find efficiencies in the health care system, but now he says he's against the government looking for efficiencies in the health care system. He says the NDP's opposed to Bill 85, but they haven't asked a single question about Bill 85 in question period in the five weeks since he became leader.

He says he supports Keystone XL, but last year he voted against Keystone XL. And now his own Environment critic, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, doesn't even seem to support Keystone. This is based on her comments in the private members' debate last Thursday. She seems to have thrown in with Keystone opponents like Ryan Meili and Thomas Mulcair instead of supporting her own leader.

Mr. Speaker, since the NDP leader took over last month, the NDP can't seem to get their position straight on anything. It's no wonder the NDP's a divided party. They have a divided leader.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Care for Pediatric Patients

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard many instances in question period over the last weeks, Mr. Speaker, about our parents and our grandparents not receiving the care that they need in seniors' care facilities, Mr. Speaker, as well as through home care. But it's not just seniors, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party government is neglecting.

Concerns are also being raised about the proper care of sick children here in Saskatchewan. We heard last week that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is looking to shut down the pediatric oncology ward, and we've learned that the health region is also looking to shut down the pediatric intensive care unit.

My question to the Premier: does he think that shutting down the pediatric intensive care unit in our capital city is a common sense thing to do?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, since the government was elected in 2007, we've implemented something called the patient-first initiative right across the health care system. It prescribed a number of measures that our government followed.

We are also keeping a number of campaign promises, still related directly to better care for kids, seniors, and patients of all ages, that's seen 1,000 more nurses working in the province, more doctors working in Saskatchewan. The surgical wait times initiative, Mr. Speaker, has been decreased. More resources in the health regions, funding up for those significantly.

And when it comes to children's care, Mr. Speaker, compared to the NDP's talk about a children's hospital, now we see funding in place and planning and soon to be construction of a children's hospital in the province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, for many Saskatchewan people, especially to the parents of sick children, it isn't common sense, Mr. Speaker, to close the pediatric intensive care unit here in the city of Regina and transfer those children, Mr. Speaker, hours away — away from their support systems, away from their family members — causing much strain for those families.

So either the Premier agrees that this is a concern, Mr. Speaker, agrees with the parents and also the nurses in the province who have voiced concern around this, Mr. Speaker. Either he sees it as a priority to have that pediatric intensive care unit here in Regina, and therefore should put the right resources there to have it in place or, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is satisfied to preside over a decline in important health care services for children here in Saskatchewan.

My question to the Premier: which one is it? Does Regina, does our capital city need a pediatric intensive care unit for children here in the city, or is he content to preside over a decline in important health care services for Saskatchewan families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region wants to ensure that they have the proper level of support for pediatric patients when that support is needed within the system.

Mr. Speaker, the region has engaged an outside consultant to look at the pediatric services that are provided in Regina. In response there are discussions about how some of those . . . how critically ill and injured children in southern Saskatchewan, how services will be provided. Plans to this point have not yet been finalized, Mr. Speaker, but they will be developing a plan in conjunction with providers and health professionals and partners on what is the best course of action to ensure that the appropriate level of care is provided to our pediatric, to our children who deserve and need services in southern Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, for the families of sick children, it's shocking for them to hear of plans to close the pediatric intensive care unit here for people living in Regina and people in southern Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, when they think about the additional expenses, the additional travel times to be close to their children in times that no family should ever have to encounter, Mr. Speaker, it's concerning and it's shocking to them.

It's also confusing to them, Mr. Speaker, at a time when the provincial economy is doing well, why the Sask Party government can't make this a priority and ensure that children, sick children here in Regina and in the South have the care that they need.

So my question to the Premier: what does he have to say to the families of sick children who want to have a pediatric intensive care unit here in Regina which has been meeting their needs very well. What does the Premier have to say to those families who are now faced with this idea of having the unit closed here in the South?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with the Regina Qu'Appelle Region and what this government is telling those families, is that we want to make sure that the appropriate level of care, when there are critically ill children in this province, that they have the care that they deserve within this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region has undertaken an evaluation of pediatric care, pediatric intensive care within Regina. Mr. Speaker, there have been deficiencies that have been found. And before we put children in a position where they are, where their care is at risk, Mr. Speaker, they need to . . . What they are doing is working through a plan to care for those children in the most appropriate fashion. Mr. Speaker, we will see children, while that plan is being developed, that need intensive care, Mr. Speaker. We will see children having service provided in Saskatoon, but this region is dedicated to providing a plan that will see appropriate care for children who need it in southern Saskatchewan.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, whether it's home care services being cut, whether it's seniors not receiving the proper care that they deserve in long-term care facilities, whether it's the hiring freeze that we see in the Saskatoon health region, whether it's talk of the closure of the pediatric oncology ward or, Mr. Speaker, the closure of the pediatric and intensive care unit, none of this makes sense to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, when the economy is doing well.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party at times has very selective hearing. But it doesn't take much of an effort to listen to Saskatchewan families and understand how important these health care provisions are for their loved ones, whether it's the oldest in our society, Mr. Speaker, or the youngest. And, Mr. Speaker, they can't understand how the Premier talks about planning for growth, yet what he's actually doing, Mr. Speaker, is presiding over a decline of hugely important services for Saskatchewan people.

My question to the Premier: is he content to preside over a decline of hugely important services for Saskatchewan patients like home care, like not having proper long-term care, Mr. Speaker, and having important pediatric units here in Regina closed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the problem with the preamble to that question is that it completely lacks credibility, coming from the Leader of the NDP. Mr. Speaker, it comes from the leader of a party that presided over the longest wait times for surgery in the country when this side of the House took office, Mr. Speaker. It comes from the leader of a party that closed hundreds of long-term care beds in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It comes from a leader of a party that closed 52 hospitals including the Plains in Regina, if he wants to talk about care here in the Queen City, Mr. Speaker.

And the question is asked to a government that recognizes that we need to do more, but also a government whose record includes 1,000 more nurses working today than under their party, 200 more doctors practising today, shorter times for surgery, Mr. Speaker, 93 per cent increase for the cancer agency, more drugs approved under the formulary, more drugs approved for cancer care — that's our record. We'll compare it any day of the week to the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Services Expenditures in the North

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there are precious resources in social services, they are best used for front-line care for children, for families, for people living with disabilities, and for support for the most vulnerable among us. That's why it makes no sense that the Sask Party has found hundreds of thousands of dollars for lawyers instead of

front-line supports for social services.

Mr. Speaker, since 2008 the Sask Party government's legal fees for Prince Albert and the North have increased from around \$200,000 a year to over \$843,000 last year alone. That is a 400 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. Why does the Sask Party government have money to pay lawyers instead of more support for front-line social services delivery in our province?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The discussion that we had last night about lawyers within the northern region, we understood that this is not just Prince Albert but it's for the North, and it's the opportunity to make sure that Social Services can bring forward their case when it comes to children in care and people on social assistance.

There's always issues when it comes to decisions that are made by government. And first of all, I think the member opposite should be aware that our concern is with children. It is with people with disabilities. It is with people that are on wait-lists. And we've spent millions and millions of dollars to ensure that this is our priority.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite had an opportunity to discuss things like wait-lists, children in care, and today she's talking about lawyers. I think we should be talking about the people that we've been providing services to and the people of the province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Prince Albert since 2008, the actual number of child protection cases before the courts has declined from an average of 26 a week to an average of 24 a week. Skyrocketing legal costs don't make sense when the number of cases is declining. In 2008 two Prince Albert firms received \$268,000 in payments. That increased to \$513,000 in 2009, \$563,000 in 2010, \$615,000 in 2011, and over \$843,000 last year alone.

Mr. Speaker, if the cases before the courts have actually dropped, why would the Sask Party government pay over four times the amount for legal services in Prince Albert since they were elected?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, in my responsibility as Minister for Social Services, I want to make sure that the individuals that we support within the ministry are supported and the taxpayers' dollars, the taxpayers' dollars are spent well. And, Mr. Speaker, when we have something that comes before the court, it's not the decision that's made by myself or by the ministry. It's challenges that may be brought forward.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the member opposite, again, hasn't talked to us about the children living in low-income families. The member hasn't talked about seniors' income. They haven't talked about housing issues. They haven't talked about wait-lists. They haven't talked about people in Valley View.

But they want to talk about the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the importance of it, but I also understand the importance of protecting the vulnerable individuals in our society. And that is what we are doing.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, all those areas, that's exactly what these questions are about — limited resources. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government has spent over \$2.8 million to pay law firms in Prince Albert for Social Services' legal costs. One has to wonder if the Sask Party is allowing these massive bills to keep coming because the Prince Albert lawyer getting paid is a Sask Party insider who even served as the election campaign business manager for the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Why would the Sask Party government spend over \$2.8 million in legal fees rather than front-line social services?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's very interesting that the member opposite is ready to play politics. Anytime she has an opportunity, she talks about court systems and money. And I want to talk about things, about individuals, people that are vulnerable, children, making sure we have homes for individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the information on what these court cases were about. I do know that there was court cases, not only in Prince Albert, but in the North. And choosing the person who's going to represent the best interests of taxpayers — and that is what we are doing here in this government — is something that I leave up to the justice system.

At the same time, I'm hoping the member opposite understands the most important thing we can be doing in this province is looking after vulnerable individuals and our children.

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

Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though spring is taking a long time to arrive, many Saskatchewan people are prepping their fishing rods and looking forward to getting out on the water this summer. That's why it's especially concerning that we have learned that the Sask Party government is privatizing the Fort Qu'Appelle fish culture station. This is yet another example of this government selling off important assets of the people. To the Minister of the Environment: why is the Sask Party selling this important asset?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the member is partially right in her preamble that Saskatchewan people are looking forward to getting out on the lakes in the summer and enjoying our lakes

and taking advantage of what we have here in Saskatchewan. As far as the latter part of the question, I don't have the information that the member is alleging.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, a couple years ago the Ministry of the Environment undertook consultations about *The Natural Resources Amendment Act*. On May 9th, 2011 the Minister of the Environment reported on those consultations to the Economy Committee. He said:

There was another topic that did come up that was an area of focus during the consultations. That is the future of the fish culture station. And it was, I guess . . . The outcome of those discussions were based on the infrastructure upgrades that would be required. The stakeholder groups felt it was best that that remain the government's responsibility.

To the minister: if important stakeholder groups said just two years ago that the Fort Qu'Appelle fish culture station should remain the government's responsibility, why is the Sask Party government putting up the for sale sign now?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. I became the Minister of Environment in late May of last year, and since that time I have had no discussions in this regard. So that's the answer.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Fort Qu'Appelle fish culture station has operated since 1915 and is of crucial importance to our province because it produces about 40 million walleye and three-quarters of a million trout every single year. This helps preserve sport angling on 125 provincial waters where winterkill can be particularly brutal or where natural spawning cannot keep up with the fishing pressure. The fish culture station also provides an environmental service for the people of Saskatchewan. It has helped preserve endangered fish species in our province like lake sturgeon.

To the Minister of the Environment: who did the Sask Party government . . . or why did the Sask Party government privatize such an important service for the environment and the people of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. No such privatization has taken place. I'm not sure if the member is talking about the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund in the broader context, but certainly in the light of her questions, nothing like that has taken place.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Tourism Saskatchewan website says that our fish culture station is "unique in North America." It's been an important institution in our province for 98 years. It produces about 40 million walleye and three-quarters of a million trout every single year. It's crucial to preserving sport fishing on 125 provincial waters. It's helped preserve endangered fish species in our province, and stakeholders have told the Sask Party it should remain the responsibility of the provincial government.

To the Minister of the Environment: he is telling us it's not going to be sold. Will he confirm here today that this unique service in North America will not be privatized?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. I'll undertake to get the information from the member and report back to the House tomorrow on the question. Thank you.

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

Immigration Issue

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For now more than 10 months, two international students from the University of Regina, Victoria Ordu and Ihuoma Amadi, have been forced to seek sanctuary in a local church. These two students came to Canada to expand their opportunities and to learn at the university. Having been provided with social insurance numbers, Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi mistakenly believed that they were able to work a few shifts at a local retailer here in Regina. That was incorrect of course, but in return for this honest mistake, Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi have been living under deportation orders ever since.

Mr. Speaker, last fall the Minister Responsible for the Economy agreed that this situation was troubling and undertook to follow the matter up with the federal government. Can the minister advise the Assembly what actions he and that government undertook to address this troubling matter? Can he provide some hope for two young women who made an honest mistake, one for which they are paying a terrible and wildly disproportionate price?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, I raised this matter with the federal Minister of Public Safety last October when he was visiting in Regina. I will have the opportunity to again meet with the minister tomorrow to see if there has been any change in the federal government position, and I'll undertake to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Ms. Amadi and Ms. Ordu have spent the past 10 months in the sanctuary of a local church. They have now missed two full semesters, effectively the entire school year.

This is an incredibly stressful ordeal for them, as it would be for anyone.

At the end of last year, changes were proposed by the federal Department of Citizenship and Immigration that would permit the very activities for which Ms. Amadi and Ms. Ordu are now facing deportation orders. The minister has talked to the feds. He is promising another talk tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, but surely he can provide an answer to what that government has done to reach out beyond the meeting in the fall, the meeting that is yet to take place, Mr. Speaker, to make the case for common sense and compassion for Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi.

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I met with the Public Safety minister last year. And the Assembly will remember that the Public Safety minister, the federal minister, was in this House. He was in this building last October, and no one from the other side took the opportunity to raise that issue with the federal minister when he was here, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a federal government responsibility, but I will undertake again to have a discussion with the federal minister when I see him this week.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, we know that that government is very close to the federal Conservative government. And we've seen further proof of that on the floor of this Assembly here today. We know that there are many ties between that government across the way and the federal government.

When it comes to Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi, they should know that their advocates have not forgotten about them. And they should also have it very clear, Mr. Speaker, that what was said in the fall stands now in terms of the position of that provincial government.

Is it still the position of the provincial government that what happened in the case of Ms. Amadi and Ms. Ordu, who are still taking sanctuary in a local church, is it still the position of that government that they need justice, that they need a compassionate, common sense response? And what are they doing to get that response from the federal government?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what more I can say. We have raised the issue with the federal government. We will raise the issue again with the federal government. The members opposite did not take the opportunity to raise it with the federal government when the federal minister was here last fall, Mr. Speaker. It's obviously not an important issue for them, otherwise they would have raised it when the minister was in the House last year, Mr. Speaker. I've undertaken to have a discussion with the federal minister and I will do that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the advocates, the friends of these two women, Mr. Speaker, have not forgotten about them, Mr. Speaker, nor should this provincial legislature in terms of our efforts to ask for a common sense, reasonable solution to their situation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout question period, we've seen examples where the actions of the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, have not been based on common sense. The first issue, Mr. Speaker, had to do with the possible closure of the pediatric intensive care unit.

My question to the Premier: does he think that it is a common sense approach to close the paediatric intensive care unit here in the province that is providing important care to families? Families want it, Mr. Speaker, and nurses are speaking up for it. Does he think it's a common sense solution to close it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in the Leader of the Opposition's preamble he referenced the previous question with respect to the refugee issue that we have going on in the city today after 10 long months. And I think, Mr. Speaker, I saw that Leader of the Opposition whisper over to the critic in between answers and encourage him to drag in a guest who is retired from the service in the federal government as some sort of . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well I hope not. And it's a good chance to clarify it, Mr. Speaker, because here I think we actually agree. Here we think the federal government is wrong. Here this side of the House has raised the matter with the federal minister.

And by the way, I think the Leader of the Opposition was the critic for immigration raising this issue on behalf of these two individuals, as he should. When the Minister of Public Safety was in the gallery, when the minister was here, he had a chance to raise it . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They say, well we're in opposition. Well opposition MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] have a chance to advocate to the federal government, to the provincial government, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue with our position with respect to this issue to the federal government. The Minister of Justice is going to do that when he meets with the Public Safety minister tomorrow. We've raised it through the immigration file as well with the Immigration minister. It's a priority for the government. It's not forgotten, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Services Expenditures in the North

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad it's not forgotten. I think this is an issue, Mr. Speaker, where we can indeed agree that more needs to be done. And I would encourage and remind all people to do what they can in order to find a positive resolution for these two women. I think, Mr. Speaker, that would be a common sense approach.

Another area, Mr. Speaker, where we haven't seen actions

based on common sense, or what would appear to be common sense, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the issue that was raised with the Social Service minister, Mr. Speaker, the issue that the number of cases per week actually decreased, meanwhile the legal expenses that were faced increased 400 per cent.

So my question straight to the Premier, to the Premier: why is it, at a time when the number of cases before the courts decreased, the legal expenses for such cases increased 400 per cent? Why did we see a skyrocketing increase of legal expenses in this situation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government, as has been the case for previous governments, procures professional services in the province of Saskatchewan — engineering services, legal services, accounting services, Mr. Speaker. There are processes that are undertaken to procure the services that have not changed, to my knowledge, since when the members opposite were in office, Mr. Speaker. And so I think the Minister of Social Services will undertake to get that specific answer to the Leader of the Opposition.

She may also want to send along, Mr. Speaker, some of the other facts in terms of her file and what we've done if the question's about a priority of resources spent. Because when she does that, she's going to be able to demonstrate again for members opposite that there are 90 more front-line child workers working today in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The 440 wait-list has been eliminated. We have new assured income for the disabled that we've featured today in the House, Mr. Speaker. And there are any number of issues where this government is keeping promises it's made to protect and to care for Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the House Services Committee.

Standing Committee on House Services

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fourth report. I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 91

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 91 — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to rise today to join debate on Bill No. 91. In terms of the changes being made by this government to pension legislation generally, in terms of this particular suite of efforts, Mr. Speaker, there would seemingly be some reasonable things here, some things that are worth more consideration.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the back and forth that goes on in the House, you know, it's interesting in terms of the federal-provincial relationships, Mr. Speaker. This government is doing some things that seem to be fairly positive on pensions, but of course it would seem to make up for some of the measures taken by their federal cousins as regards to increasing the age of applicability for the Canada Pension Plan, Mr. Speaker, moving that age of eligibility from 65 to 67.

And again, Mr. Speaker, for all the measures that are taken on the provincial front, it's being taken away from if it's been undercut by what's happening on the federal front, Mr. Speaker. Well that's a problem because something that looks good on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, something that looks good on the floor of this Assembly, if it gets out into the main street and into the highways and byways of this province only to be undone by the measures taken by their federal cousins, well that's a problem.

Again in terms of the housekeeping measures that are put forward in this particular Bill 91, in terms of the changes that are made, again, Mr. Speaker, you know, what would seem to be fairly modest, fairly reasonable assumptions, fairly reasonable measures, Mr. Speaker, fair enough; we're glad to see them. And we'll be glad to see how it works out in committee and when we can get that closer scrutiny of the measures under consideration here today.

But, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to again the way that federal actions can undo provincial actions and the way, if you're not moving in some kind of concert or co-operation, then the people that you express an interest in serving in the legislative agenda that takes place and unfolds on the floor of this Chamber can be easily undone, can be easily damaged once it rolls out into the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot over the years about the give-peace-a-chance agenda of that government. We have heard

on different times about the closeness and the co-operative nature of the relationship they have with the Stephen Harper Conservative government. And, Mr. Speaker, you'd think that on something like pensions maybe they'd be able to make that co-operative, that close cousin relationship work for the people of Saskatchewan. But we don't see that, Mr. Speaker. What we see instead is actions that are taken on this side of the coin possibly being undone by the measures put forward by members, their federal cousins in Ottawa.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't months after the last federal election where that government came forward and said, oh guess what? And they didn't say it to Canadian people, Mr. Speaker. They said it to a group of global business elite in Switzerland, I think is where the announcement took place, in terms of raising the age of 65 as eligibility for the Canada Pension Plan to 67. You know, not a word about it in the election, Mr. Speaker, not a word about it to the Canadian people. Instead they go across the ocean to show what global big shots they are, I guess, Mr. Speaker, to show what fiscal tough guys they are, and tell the global business elite that, you know, Canada is going to sock it to our seniors in terms of the eligibility for the Canada Pension Plan.

And again, Mr. Speaker, how that puts undue pressure on measures like the one we see before us here today in Bill 91, how that undoes what is potentially good work contained in this piece of legislation as regards to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan — we find cause for concern in that, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan itself, I mean a lot of, a fair amount of positive history for that pension plan. I've gone on record before, Mr. Speaker, in terms of declaring my interest in this particular set of measures as regards to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan as a member of that Saskatchewan Pension Plan, and being reminded of that having done my taxes not too long ago, Mr. Speaker.

But in terms of the steps that are being taken in this piece of legislation, in terms of what may be good work on the face of it, may be good work through the front door only to be undone as the legislation emerges out into the land and impacts the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, when the federal changes to the pension landscape of this province are changed, and of this country are changed, we'll see how the, you know, potential good work of this particular piece of legislation is impacted by their federal cousins.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting here today on the floor of the legislature. You see that warm, friendly relationship that exists between, you know, many leading members of that government and the federal Conservative Party. And if you talk about it though, Mr. Speaker, then you get the cries of denunciation, and it's like, oh no, that can't possibly be.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the memberships carried by the majority of people in that party across the way speak volumes about that close relationship between the Saskatchewan Party and the federal Conservative Party. I think the past careers of members across the way, and you know, some of them serving as sitting members in Stephen Harper's Conservative caucus, you know, Mr. Speaker, and then after 2007 the whole fact that, you know, despite written guarantees around getting fairness

for natural resources for the province of Saskatchewan from the then Saskatchewan federal Conservative caucus, despite the fact of them reneging on that promise, which was in writing, Mr. Speaker, then there being grounds for a suit — take the feds and get some justice for the people of Saskatchewan as regards natural resources.

[14:30]

Well you know, what was the approach of the government opposite? Well the Premier himself said, we're going to give peace a chance. And you know, at the time, you know, I'm sure there'd be those that think we were cynical or skeptical on the opposition benches. And we certainly were, Mr. Speaker, because what that looked like, Mr. Speaker, was selling out on a file that was worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the people of Saskatchewan, to their federal cousins.

And again, Mr. Speaker, if you raised that in this Assembly, if you talk about that close, friendly relationship that exists, if it's working for the people of Saskatchewan, then of course they're the first ones to jump all over that parade.

But when it comes to situations where the province of Saskatchewan, where the interests of the people of the province of Saskatchewan is not being served by the federal government, well then of course members opposite can't run fast enough away from their federal cousins. They can do no end of member statements about other federal-provincial political relationships, Mr. Speaker, but when it comes to their own situation, Mr. Speaker, it's pick them and choose them, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the historical record, if you look at the facts of the matter, the fact that those members opposite want to run and hide when they're called to account for their relationship with the federal government, when they're called to account for the fact that they've proclaimed it as a special relationship, as a productive, positive relationship for the people of Saskatchewan, when that doesn't come true and we call them to account for it, Mr. Speaker, well then the hue and cry is on. And it's kind of rich to watch it unfold, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, in terms of the amendments proposed before us in Bill 91, to recap, Mr. Speaker, I think that what that government is doing opposite in this modest suite of legislation — all four pages of it, Mr. Speaker — well you know, fair enough.

But we'll see how it's impacted by the changes that are being made by their federal cousins. And the fact that those members opposite sit around federal-provincial-territorial tables with their federal cousins, who again, Mr. Speaker, they're no end of happy to talk about the special relationship. But of course when they make changes like raising the eligibility for CPP [Canada Pension Plan] from 65 to 67, well then members opposite, you could make a bet, Mr. Speaker, that, guess who's missing in action? The Saskatchewan Party provincial government.

So I guess, Mr. Speaker, we'd like to see a little consistency. We'd like to see them live up to their words, where if this is in fact a productive, positive, co-operative relationship that that government opposite has with the federal government, we'd

like to see it carried out down the line. We'd like to see them deliver for the people of Saskatchewan. And when it's not in the interests of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we'd like to see them call their federal cousins to account. And too often, Mr. Speaker, we see that not being the case. They're pretty happy to cast the stones the other way, Mr. Speaker, but when it comes to that federal-provincial relationship, there's a big, old glass house that they should keep in mind.

Anyway with that, Mr. Speaker, Bill 91, we'll certainly have more questions for it when it comes to committee in terms of the particular mechanics of the legislation and in terms of that broader impact in terms of how it fits into income security for seniors and for retirees in this province, Mr. Speaker. And we'll allow the government to proceed to committee on this matter at this time.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 92

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 92 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to Bill No. 92, *An Act respecting Pooled Registered Pension Plans and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. And of course all these things are coming out as part of the budget, and we understand that. And these are budget bills and we need to speak to these.

But I do want to take a moment to reflect on how important these are, and again to emphasize to the minister, and we will as often as we can, that while this can be one part of the tool kit, there are many other tools that he needs to consider. And we have spoken at length about this in terms of looking at how we can best utilize the Canada Pension Plan and what that means

for many, many Canadians and for our Saskatchewan citizens.

And clearly if we can show leadership in developing tools like this, we can show leadership by stepping up to the plate when others are saying, hey we need to think outside the box here and think and revisit that time when we felt so strongly that seniors cannot be left abandoned when it comes to income security. This is one tool that you can have and clearly there's many merits of it. But we need to really sit back and think about what the majority of Canadians, what is the reality that they face. And it's not a good picture. It's absolutely not a good picture.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a minute and reflect on what the minister said when he was talking about Bill 92. He talks about how these are a new kind of a pension plan that will provide employees and self-employed who do not have access to a workplace pension a low-cost retirement savings opportunity.

And I suppose in some ways he's correct, but he's inaccurate in the sense that we all have access to the Canada Pension Plan. And that is the primary workplace pension plan in Canada — the Canada Pension Plan. We all have access to the old age security, but the second stool . . . the second leg of that stool is the Canada Pension Plan. And we need to make sure that we take the time to get it right. We're at a crossroads, and clearly we're at a crossroads because we know that there are a new wave of seniors coming into place. And of course I'm talking about the baby boomers of which many of us in this House belong to. We belong to that generation. And some of us are fortunate in that we do have a strong workplace pension to complement our other workplace pension, the Canada Pension Plan, but many others don't have that same, that same thing.

And so, Mr. Speaker, and I quote the minister. He says:

. . . there is widespread concern that Canadians are not saving enough for their retirement years. Statistics reflect this trend, and it's unfortunately now commonplace for individuals to work later in life because they find themselves with insufficient savings once they reach their retirement age.

And isn't that the truth. That is really the truth. And so we find ourselves searching for the answers, and we think this is the case. And we know it's particularly the case in Saskatchewan where I've been able to reflect on, what has been the stats here in Saskatchewan? And we know that there is a real concern about what happens to workers when they find themselves being squeezed with their take-home pay.

We know in Saskatchewan that we were once the most affordable province with the most affordable cities to live, but that's no longer the case. That's no longer the case with rents now making up 40, 45 per cent of a person's take-home wage. It used to be under 30 per cent. We were affordable, but we're not affordable anymore. And rent is squeezing costs.

A high cost, and particularly when you become a senior, the high cost of medications. Fortunately in Saskatchewan, here we have the seniors' drug plan that we were very proud on this side of the House to bring into place under the former premier. We were very happy to bring in the Canadian . . . the seniors' drug

plan that reached out to over, I believe, 200,000 seniors, and it cost some \$50 million. I know this side, the government side, likes to talk about the seniors' income plan, and we think that is a good initiative. But clearly this year, even when they're raising it, won't cost half of what the drug plan cost and reach only a fraction of what the drug plan costs.

But seniors really are facing issues in terms of health care, and that's predominantly through the drug costs. And so we have those issues that seniors are facing and food and all the just general costs of living. And we see that as part of the new Saskatchewan. There's many positive things about the new Saskatchewan, but unfortunately one of the consequences is the cost of living here is much higher than it was many years ago. And the fact of the matter is seniors have to make difficult choice.

And as well, working people, when they're looking at their take-home pay, they have to make choices. And the very last, unfortunately, it seems like the very last thing that they are interested in doing is putting money aside, putting money aside for retirement. And so this is why we have some concerns about the pooled pension plan because clearly it is a choice. It's one that they can choose to participate in. It's a voluntary program. And unfortunately the track record for adults working is that it is their last choice to put money aside for too many people. And it really is a problem.

Yes, and this is what the minister says, and I quote, "This trend is especially worrying in regards to modest- and middle-income families and employees of small and medium-sized businesses." And he goes on to say, "Mr. Speaker, in fact the Canadian Federation of Independent Business estimates that close to 80 per cent [80 per cent] of employees of smaller businesses have no access to company retirement plans."

And I think that's probably quite true, and it is a challenge. And it's a challenge for the owners of small businesses to put into place and then to have some sort of vehicle for this to move forward. And so this is why there's so many questions about the emphasis on this. This is something that maybe we can do. It will be interesting in many years, many years to be able to see how this all plays out in 10 or 20 years. In 10 or 20 years, we will be able to look back and say, so was this a good idea? But I urge and I will say it, and I will say it many times, that we've got to make sure we provide many tools for workers to participate in their pension plans.

And of course the one that I think and I urge the minister when he meets with his counterparts this spring — I think it's this next couple of months — to say all right we've covered that base off. We've created that tool. But the real tool that will mean so much more to Saskatchewan citizens and Saskatchewan workers and Canadian workers is looking at CPP enhancements because the fact of the matter is that they travel with you wherever you are, wherever you are. It's much easier to keep track of your CPP plan than it is if you've only worked a few months or half a year or a small amount, and you ended up with some money in this pooled pension plan. And so I think again we will talk a lot about this, and we will have a lot of questions. But I think that we do have some questions.

And so with this, the minister talks about the framework was

agreed, around the framework, in December of 2010 and following the consultation, public and stakeholders. And it would be interesting. I guess I would have some questions about the consultation process. But the federal government took about two years to put together the pooled pension plan legislation, came about in December of 2012. And here we are doing something here in Saskatchewan.

And so he does talk about how the pension regulation is primarily an area of provincial responsibility, so each provincial government has to implement its own enabling legislation to make PRPPs [pooled registered pension plan] available to all Canadians. So I assume that this will happen right across Canada. I know the minister doesn't speak about that quite yet, and so again there will be a question. What happens about portability of this to other pension plans, and how is this going to be uniform across Canada?

[14:45]

I know in my experience as a teacher that that has been a big challenge particularly as teachers would find themselves moving across Canada. And so we would have questions about portability of this kind of plan. Is this allowed? Is there going to be recognition of contributions in other provinces? How will that play out? Or will you have to just take it as one part of your income, your retirement income?

Now it will be interesting to see, as these move forward, the incentives and the participation encouragements that each province will put into place and what that may look like. We don't know. These are just the vehicles. This is the framework allowing it to happen. But we know once these things start to take place and take shape over years, there might be encouragements, might be incentives. And how does that match across the country? And you know, it will be interesting to see how that plays out.

Again I just reflect on how much more simpler it would have been if it had been done through CPP. But again, you know, I think it's one tool in the tool kit. And if people choose to go down this road, then that's fair enough. But I just have to say that we may be missing the boat in a big way, in a significant way, by ignoring something that is already in place. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm just reminded of the saying, if it ain't broke, why fix it? But in cases where . . . Why reinvent the wheel? I guess that's what I'm trying . . . Reinvent the wheel — that's my phrase — when we can just enhance the wheel or blow it up a little bit better. Maybe it's a little low on air. We don't have to reinvent the thing. And I guess that's what I'm thinking here.

Again this may be an appropriate tool. And of course, the minister reflected on the fact that 80 per cent of small businesses have an issue. And this is one we've discovered too, you know. When I was in government and minister of Labour, we talked about the vulnerable worker. We talked about issues around pensions. And clearly when you're a low-income worker, it's a tough, tough choice.

But it's also a tough choice for the employer, because he wants or she wants to create an environment where a worker will want to stay with that business. Maybe the pay is not that great, but

it's a great place to work and it offers a great opportunity to do other things. Maybe it's the timing, the ability, you know, to be flexible, and flexibility in today's workplace is huge, is huge. People are looking for that kind of thing. And incentives for workers to stay with small businesses such as a pension plan may be one of those incentives that will work. And so we're not against that type of thing. Clearly when people can be creative and say these are the kind of things that we can offer you in this workplace and we hope you stay with us, people look at that and they feel they're valued and they appreciate it.

So I think there's a complementary process here. It's not an either/or, but it's one that the work will not be done, will not be done quickly. And I think that my deep concern though, my deep, deep, deep concern is that the fact is that the vast majority of workers will find themselves without any kind of pension plan other than the CPP. It's just a reality and it's one that really does speak to the workplace.

The fact is that even if we were able to increase the number of small businesses that did offer a pension plan . . . let's say we doubled it. It's now 20 per cent and went to 40 per cent. That still means 60 per cent of the workers, 60 per cent of the workers in that area of small businesses still do not have. You could even, you know, triple it and still you would have 40 per cent of workers without any kind of supplementary pension plan. And so this is the case of where, you know, the Canada Pension Plan does absolutely cover everyone who is in a workplace, and it's such a much more all-inclusive system.

And so that's the thing that I think that we really need to reflect on, and I just want to make that case because we know that's the case. And so it talks about we have to do our own enabling legislation. And as I said, we'll be looking across, that what does this mean across Canada in terms of portability. And he talks about, unlike most workplace pensions, Mr. Speaker, a PRPP is managed by administrator not the employer. So once licensed, you have an administrator who will make sure we go through that. And actually it was interesting in the overall simple design of PRPP, it says intended to encourage participation by employers that may not currently be able to offer a pension plan to employees due to costs of the administrative complexity.

And clearly that is a concern and a very legitimate concern. And I think we had that debate about the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, an organization that does very good work, you know, based out of Kindersley, and they will be able to offer that role of administering plans. And so that would be one group that would be able to do the administration of that. But the fact of the matter is he goes on to say, that in fact, that participating employers will not be required to contribute. They will be permitted to make direct contributions on an employee's behalf. And so that's an enabling thing and a good thing.

You know, I mean obviously if you're looking to create a savings account and then this is a good thing. And it's always a good thing to be able to do that. I do worry, though, that we need to make sure that in fact the amount that is saved . . . And we'll have a question for the minister in this regard because I know this is a case when we get into SIP [seniors' income plan] and GIS [guaranteed income supplement] that in fact, that if your savings aren't significant enough, it's almost better to

have no savings or go . . . in your senior years, if you end up with 30,000 or 50,000, it would have been better to have bought a car or something because it may be . . .

An Hon. Member: — Tax free savings account.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay, and that's an answer. So we'll have that answer more directly. But that is a concern . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay, we're getting into a debate that maybe should be better left for — I won't look over there — that'll be left for the committee.

But those are the kind of questions that we do have, and we don't have all the answers, and this is why we have committee . . . Is the fact that what happens to make sure that it's worthwhile for seniors to put money aside so they are not penalized for savings because we do agree and we do think that savings is a good habit to start. Start young. Start saving. Live on the positive side of the ledger, not on the negative side. And if you do that, then that's a good habit to get into for so many reasons, for so many reasons.

But in the past it was a problem. And we will have questions with the minister in terms of the fact that, as I understand it, several years ago, maybe not currently, that there was a provision when it came to GIS and the guaranteed income supplement that in fact that if you didn't have a significant savings that it would have been better off not to have it at all and to spend it while you were working. And so that's a good . . . We want to be sure we're clear on that.

But again there's many parts of this as it is our job and our duty to raise those concerns because you know, Mr. Speaker, I did actually run into a senior who was in my own riding, living downtown, and he was very concerned because he was actually just . . . He had put money aside into his savings account, and what he was getting was a couple of hundred dollars a month. And he was wondering why he wasn't qualifying for GIS. And it was because he had . . . Well he was making that couple of hundred dollars a month from an RRSP [registered retirement savings plan] that he had decided that he would do. And it was the right thing for him to save, but unfortunately it wasn't significant enough for him to get out of that zone where it was being clawed back by the federal government, so to speak. So if there are ways around that . . .

That's why it's really important to have good financial advice when you're approaching the senior years to make sure that you can take full advantage of programs so that in fact when you finish up your working years, and you really are hoping that you can finish up your working years, that everything's in place and that you don't find yourself accidentally having to go back to the workplace just because the planning wasn't there. So again, Mr. Speaker, we'll have many, many questions about this.

But again it is unfortunate now, and I'm going to go on to say:

When an employer chooses to adopt a PRPP, employees will be automatically enrolled but given the opportunity subsequently to opt out. While automatic enrolment for employees of participating employers encourages savings for retirement by those who may not have proactively

saved on their own . . .

It provides employees with the ability to opt out and ensures them to retain their freedom to set their individual priorities, financial priorities. And additionally self-employed individuals or individuals whose employer chooses not to participate can open up a PRP [pooled registered pension] account by approaching one of the administrators directly.

So that's there so that the employer can create an account, and they will be automatically enrolled, but they can opt out if they wish. And they can also decide to withdraw, or ". . . opt out ensures they retain the freedom to set their own individual financial priorities." And in many ways that's a good thing. I understand that. And particularly maybe in small businesses or if it's not significant enough, they will have to look at their own financial things.

But again this is I think the beauty of the Canada Pension Plan where we all contribute. We all understand that it sets a minimum, a bench, you know, a certain level where we can all feel somewhat secure, somewhat secure. It won't definitely allow you to retire in Florida or anything, but it will allow you to have some dignity in retirement years. So this is the question we have. Will it meet that obligation we have as a society to ensure that we all have those things, those programs in place, and at the same time retain that freedom, retain that freedom? And so it's really important for us to think this completely through and yet have, while we have that commitment to the individual choice, it's also really important that we allow . . . We do actually as it is a society obligation, it's a society commitment, and I think in Canada we are so proud of the way that we have set things up in a way that we really do take a look at seniors.

And you know, I know the government opposite . . . And it is interesting because in many ways what they've done around the Saskatchewan Income Plan is a good thing. I have some concerns on a few of the, of parts of it because I am worried that in fact in Saskatchewan — and we'll have maybe some questions on this because I could be wrong — but I understand just that there are just two people who look after the Saskatchewan Income Plan. Now they may have increased it, but actually it's tied to the federal system.

And whatever happens federally happens provincially, and so we don't have our own provincial controls over it. And to the extent that this government has enriched that program, it would've been wise to actually maybe have more oversight on the program because we know every year, several people, several hundreds of people, if not thousands of seniors, fall off that program only to have to reapply to get on it. It's pretty easy to apply. All you have to do is phone the 1-800 number for the federal government and they look after the paperwork. But several hundreds of people fall off for a variety of reasons and their savings or their income gets interrupted for a few months.

And it's just, it's just not as consistent as it should be. And there's also pockets. Like I would be interested for to hear from the government, their research around the Saskatchewan Income Plan because we know a high prevalence of folks who are seniors, who live in poverty, are actually low-income single women, and that's a real challenge.

[15:00]

And the other subgroup of that are low-income senior women who are of Aboriginal descent, particularly First Nations, who may not realize that they, that they qualify. And this is something that over the years that we've just given out the 1-800 number and said, please call, and you will, you will find out whether you qualify or not. But it's really something that we need to I think do a better job of advertising and getting the word out there because again, if Saskatchewan is really the leader in that area, let's really make sure everybody who can be participating is participating and that we don't take advantage of the fact that some people may not know about it and therefore they don't apply and the savings then goes to the government. I think that's really unfortunate and we shouldn't be operating like that.

So I think when we talk about the Saskatchewan Income Plan as part of this, and my point was that when we talked about it in the '70s — that this kind of senior income plan and guaranteed annual income was all part of a much bigger dream in the '70s — about the great social contract, you know, and we talked about how can we look after everyone so everyone had a source of income so they could do the work, they could contribute to society, in a way that they would want to.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we're into that second or third wave. I mean the first wave really was when old age security actually came about many decades ago. And then we had the discussion in the '70s where we saw the guaranteed income supplement. And now we're seeing something in the 2010s, and we would really hope that we would see the Canadian pension plan be revisited because it's so, so critically important.

So the minister goes on to talk about how, on retirement, employees will have the same options of withdrawing assets currently available from a defined contribution pension plan, in Saskatchewan particularly. The options on retirement are Registered Retirement Income Fund, a RRIF — so that's fair enough — a variable pension benefit, or a life annuity. So there are choices and that's fair enough.

He goes on to say, and this is what we all agree on:

The government continues to encourage all Saskatchewan workers to plan for the future, recognizing that in order to provide an adequate level of income in retirement, individuals need to set aside sufficient savings over their working lives.

And this will provide them with a simple, low-cost option to support their retirement savings.

And so again it's a matter of perspective, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's whether you say . . . And it will be interesting, the research. What I've said earlier — who will be taking this up? Will it be those who are low-income, vulnerable workers? Will they rise to the challenge of putting money aside into these pooled retirement pension plans or will they not be able to do that?

And, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I think there's a couple of issues here. One, that where the CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] can point out 80 per cent of small

businesses don't have the wherewithal to do it, and we know that it's up to some 40 per cent of people who can do this, you know.

And here, Mr. Speaker, if I can look at some of the numbers we have in Regina . . . We know that in Saskatoon there are — this is from StatsCan — that there were 182,000 tax filers and yet there were 51,000 total RRSP contributors, 31 per cent, 31.9 per cent, and the median that they actually put aside was \$3,750. And so the people who did this, 39 per cent of the people who made 80,000 or more, and so there you go. And percentage of RRSP made by contributors with total income of 80,000 or more was 66 per cent. So it was the high-end earners who actually were saving the money and not the low-income workers who will have the challenges in retirement years. In Regina, 154,000 tax filers, 45,000 — 29 per cent of the people — saved money but yet again the same sort of stats in terms of people who really were making money were the ones who actually saved the money.

So that's the challenge that we have before us and it's the reality of the marketplace and our working world is that they in fact cannot, they do not have the resources to do this. So while it has a lot of merit, it has . . . And again it's a tool. And we're not saying it's either-or. We think though it can be both and we think that for some tweaking of the CPP . . . And we'll be asking the minister in finance like what is the challenges around having both systems, improving the Canada Pension Plan so that all workers can retire with some sense of dignity?

I'm not saying that we all want them to or that they all should be expected they're going to be retiring to Florida. That's not a reasonable thought and it's also probably one they may think when the savings they would have to put aside would be huge. And so it wouldn't be one that they would want to be advocating for.

But we all are thinking about dignity in our senior years. We're all thinking about how can we make sure that anybody who hasn't worked has a system in place where they are saving. And it's their money. You know, we all make our own contributions.

But the fact is we do have some challenges around this in terms of, will they have enough money put aside? Will it be portable? Will there be some folks who just will be left behind? And that's not the nature of what we thought would be happening in Canada or in Saskatchewan. We're developing these kind of initiatives.

And it is one . . . It's not a small initiative. It's one that really, as I said earlier, as we see waves of social, I don't know if you call it social engineering, but social tweaking, where we saw in the '70s the whole issue about income security and how that might happen. And we saw that, you know, in the '30s or '40s around the old age security. That now we're in a place, a crossroads, where we have to talk about what are we going to do yet again about seniors. And I think because of the amount that we have in the Canada Pension Plan just isn't meeting enough, and we have to take a look at how we can tweak that.

Our workplaces are changing. You know, it used to be that people would go to work and they would have one employer

and it was about the workplace loyalty. And that was what we would expect people to do, and that's what people expected would happen with their employer. But that's not the reality at all. The reality is that people will change their careers many times. But we do not want to see that people are working beyond the years in which they are physically capable because they can't . . . They must have to work because they just don't have the resources to retire.

There's too many challenges in our communities, particularly around rents, the cost of living, that type of thing. And I know in my own neighbourhood where you have an older neighbourhood like Caswell where seniors are facing huge challenges this winter, just because particularly around the snowfall and icy streets. It's been seven months of winter, and it's been hard. And for retirement, I think seniors are looking . . . And I know this is an interesting bit of a crisis for them, the snow and the impact that it's made on their houses, which is their primary savings. It's their major asset they have and it's been devalued because of the impact of the snow on the roofs and damage that's been done to the walls and that type of thing.

And so we have to look at this. We have to take a really good, long look. And I'm hoping that when we do have the minister in committee that we'll have a good, long discussion about pensions and what he foresees in the future and what discussions will happen at the ministerial level because we just want to encourage him to do all that he can to make sure that all the tools are in the tool kit, as I said. And one of the primary ones, if it needs tweaking, the Canada Pension Plan, we sure hope to see it revamped. We don't have all the information as members of the opposition. Clearly the minister has a lot more information that he can bring to bear on it. But clearly we need to have that conversation.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I can't think of too much else to say, but it is I think an important bill that we have before us, and it's one that we'll be watching carefully, as I said. And when it's in committee, there'll be people watching both of those, both workers, young workers, older workers, people who have . . . This is the issue. This is one of the most major issues that we have. And it's about pensions, but it's also about security around those pensions, that they'll be in place when people do retire and that they'll be significant enough that they actually can have meaning and add to their financial stability. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak to Bill 92. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 92, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 93

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 93 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act**** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I know this is the consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of the pooled registered pension plans and again a very important piece of legislation. And I've had a chance now, I think there must be three bills that act as a suite in this because I've had the opportunity to talk a bit about the Saskatchewan Pension Plan and its role in this, that it would be able to work with this, and how important that is, and then talking about the enabling legislation, 92, *An Act respecting Pooled Registered Pension Plans and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. And then this is the third one, also acting to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act*.

And as we look through it, it is interesting that we see the impact that this bill will have on other pieces of legislation. And I will take a minute to talk about this because I think that people need to know some of the pieces of legislation that will be impacted by this. There are many Acts. And this is, as I said in my earlier remarks, that when we get into this kind of legislation, it's one that has significant impacts in our economy and with seniors because this kind of thing . . . and for our workers in our province because this is one of their major concerns is, what happens with my pension plan. What are the impacts? What are the unintended or the intended consequences of this pension plan?

So we'll take a minute to look through this, and . . . [inaudible] . . . I see that we will be amending *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. And clearly that is one that you can see is a significant one because when we talk about enforcement of maintenance orders, we don't want to have an unintended consequence where there's one Act or one pool of money . . . that when somebody has a maintenance order, we have to make sure that we have access to all their resources. And that's very important.

[15:15]

And of course the other interesting thing about this is that it's also in French and that this is important legislation and that our language speaks to both the anglophone and Fransaskois community in Saskatchewan. And so these kind of bills are important that all the details, all the t's are crossed and all the i's are dotted, that as we move forward . . .

It took the federal government two years to put their legislation together after the discussions at the, I understand, the federal-territorial-provincial meetings, that they've now come up with this. And I know that we'll have questions, many questions, about this in terms of how is this right across Canada in terms of portability. And this is just one example, the enforcement of maintenance orders, that in fact that is portable, that it is enforceable across Canada. And it would be unfortunate if you saw a patchwork approach in Canada that some provinces went down this road.

And as I said, it's not my favourite tool in the tool kit, but it is one that is there, and we have to recognize it. And so when we do these kind of things, we don't have any unintended consequences, and it's something that is consistent right across Canada. And if there's a situation that speaks to how important consistency is, it's the enforcement of maintenance orders. And so I know that this will be one that we won't have, I don't think, as many questions. But I'm glad to see that it's here because it shows some due diligence, that it's been thoughtful, and it's been worked through.

But it will be part of that suite of bills around the pooled retired pension plans that really speaks to increased concerns that we have in our province and in our country around the adequacy of our retirement income and particularly for those, as I said earlier, around vulnerable workers. And if they do find themselves in particular family challenges, whether that be maintenance orders that need to be enforced, that type of thing, all of this can be looked after.

So we're not sure if there's other amendments that we may be seeing. You know, we are heading into the final weeks of session, unbelievable as it is. With the snow on the ground you'd think we just were starting session. But you know, when we think of that, it's hard to believe. But will there be more bills before us — I'm not sure — that relate to pensions? But we really want to make sure that we have completely covered the waterfront, as it is often thought of, that there are no gaps or no unintended consequences because when you talk about investing money in a pension plan or saving money, that it will be there, that it absolutely will be there for the retirees when they hit the age when they want to retire.

But again I just want to emphasize how important it is that we think about the whole suite of tools and that the minister be thinking about the Canada Pension Plan and how that can be enhanced so that everyone, everyone will have a more secure retirement. This speaks to the participation, the voluntary participation. It is a choice, and we understand that. That's fair enough. But even if you double the participation rates, it still leaves a big gap of people. As I said earlier, in Saskatoon or Regina where the participation rates are in the high 20's, low 30's, you know, now even if you doubled it, there's still 40 per cent of people who will not be participating. And you can just imagine that those people are probably those who are the most

vulnerable because they couldn't put aside money, you know, to the extent that they needed to. And so this is a real, this is a real challenge.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, we'll have lots of questions, and we'll be ready to do that in the days ahead because we do think it's important, and we do take this very seriously. And we hope that we can have a thoughtful, productive dialogue with the minister when it comes to the whole suite of pensions when he plans on taking it to the next set of meetings about this, now that he's got this part done. Where do we go from here? So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 93, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 94

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 94 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased and honoured to stand today to speak about Bill No. 94, and as I alluded to earlier, Mr. Speaker, this is my second opportunity to speak on this bill. And the bill primarily speaks of the increase that the province of Saskatchewan is implementing on a package of cigarettes, which roughly runs to a dollar per cigarette case as a result of the increase.

Mr. Speaker, the minister spoke about increasing the price for one cigarette from 21 cents to 25 cents, effectively making the overall increase, as I mentioned, a dollar per pack of cigarettes. And some of the information, Mr. Speaker, I noted on his

preamble to the actual bill itself when he introduced the bill, that some of the points that the minister made reference to was the fact that the rates of smoking in Saskatchewan have remained stubbornly high and that there needs to be a more concerted effort to try and curb the amount of smoking that people do.

And the second issue that was raised in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill 94, was the fact that this measure, this Bill 94, would have an increase in terms of government revenues. And I referred to *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker, where on page 3234 the minister talks about the increase resulting in \$45.2 million in extra revenue. So what you have, Mr. Speaker, is you have the price of cigarettes going from 21 cents per cigarette to 25 cents, which increases the overall price for a pack of cigarettes by \$1.

Now the minister says that these extra revenues will mean \$45 million to the provincial economy. So one would make it very easy to assume, Mr. Speaker, that we're now talking about 45 million packs of cigarettes being sold every year here in Saskatchewan. Now 45 million packages of cigarettes, Mr. Speaker, that would really to me be very, very worrisome for the public overall. That's a lot of cigarettes to be smoking. So if my math serves me correct, the minister talks about increasing by a dollar, and \$45 million will be generated from the sin tax. Obviously there's \$45 million of cigarettes or packages of cigarettes being sold. And that's an alarming trend, Mr. Speaker, no question about that.

One of the things that I spoke about earlier in the bill itself was how we make an effort to educate the young people in Saskatchewan and the older people as well that have been smoking for years, that this habit is not only costly to their wallets, but it's also costly to their family time. It's a threat to their family's health. And, Mr. Speaker, it sincerely costs the health department millions, if not billions of dollars, over the years to look after those that suffer from smoking or tobacco-related deaths and illnesses.

So, Mr. Speaker, again as I mentioned, if the translation or the math that I'd done was correct, 45 million packages of cigarettes are sold in our province each and every year. And that is an absolutely astounding amount of cigarettes that are being smoked by the people of Saskatchewan. And we need to do all we can to curb the stubborn trend upwards. If we're not at least educating people about this, we have to bring forth some of this information so people know exactly what's going on when you talk about tobacco.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in our earlier years I had the pleasure of serving in cabinet, and I remember that the minister of Health at that time brought forward a number of initiatives. I spoke about that earlier. And some of the initiatives seemed at the time to really seem not being very effective, like I mentioned having a curtain that would not allow stores to display cigarettes openly for the young people to see. I thought that having a curtain and having cigarettes hidden from public view was really not an effective way. But, Mr. Speaker, in hindsight, it is an effective way to deter young people from picking up smoking.

The other issue that I noticed, Mr. Speaker, was to stop advertising, to stop the cigarette advertising that was happening in some of our magazines. And certainly from the perspective

of trying to deter cigarette use, limiting the cigarette companies, the large tobacco companies' opportunity to advertise their product which creates a significant health problem for the user, I thought that that was probably one of the effective ways of dealing with the issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, I also was a bit worried about the bigger argument we had in cabinet at the time when we spoke about the whole notion of smoking in restaurants or smoking in bars. Now, Mr. Speaker, obviously in those days smoking in bars was allowed. Smoking in restaurants was allowed. And a lot of people were really of the mixed opinion that if we undertook at the time an effort to try and eliminate smoking in bars, eliminate smoking in restaurants, that this would be the death knell for those particular industries. And a lot of people within cabinet had a very, very varied views of interest on this one. Some believe that you ought to have a smoking room. Others believe that you ought to have an outdoor smoking patio. Others believe that certain bars could be designated smoking or non-smoking.

But, Mr. Speaker, the problem we had at the time, and as unbeknownst to me, that the Cancer Society was advocating absolutely no smoking in the public places because if you make concessions for a smoking room or smoking patio, that really defeats the purpose of a facility being deemed as a non-smoking operation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think you look at that particular aspect, that was where I certainly had a lot of misgivings. And I apologize to the former minister of Health because at the time I didn't believe that any of the measures that he was advocating — the member from Lakeview — that he was advocating would be effective at all. And we also wanted to see evidence. How do you determine the value of encouraging people not to smoke and to justify some of the measures we had in place?

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the key thing here was that I was a non-believer in some of the initiatives. I was a non-believer in some of the strategies we had in place. And even though we had some compelling arguments, some compelling evidence later on in which the minister of Health at the time indicated that there are studies, that there are models, that take into account a population, such as Saskatoon, where they can actually monitor heart attacks, heart problems, lung problems . . . They can actually monitor the health of the city, even though there's 260,000 people in that city, that they can actually monitor it before they implemented some of these measures. And after a year or two, that they could actually do an evaluation as to whether those measures to curb smoking and to decrease smoking was actually effective.

And these models, Mr. Speaker, were very impressive models. And health professionals were involved with it, the Lung Association was involved with it. And they really, quite frankly, dissected the whole city's population, and they came back and they gave us some very, very good information as to the rates of heart attacks, as to the rates of lung disease, and as to the rate of health issues of people that were smoking. And after the measures were put in place, of how some of those rates dramatically improved and that the health of the population overall, we've seen an increased performance of people's health as a result of some of the non-smoking efforts undertaken by the former minister of Health.

[15:30]

And, Mr. Speaker, it was actually an amazing thing for me to see. I was one in the corner that you shouldn't be putting in these rules in bars, and people go to the bars. They should expect to have smoking because that's a social event, and having a few beer and smoking a cigarette, that was pretty much the norm in those days. And a lot of arguments were made that this would hurt the business, would hurt the economy, would hurt the private sector, and on and on and on about the arguments.

But nonetheless you cannot argue back if you have some very good, sound information in front of you. The Lung Association and my colleague, my current colleague from Lakeview here, he really advocated and he really championed and he really pushed the effort to decrease the amount of smoking that was occurring in the province of Saskatchewan.

So some of the measures that we spoke about in those days, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not allowing businesses to advertise right out in the open that the fact that they had cigarettes and tobacco products, that they're forced to either close off the display rack with curtains or simply hide the cigarettes in drawers. People had to ask for them. That was an effective smoking cessation tool.

The other argument of not allowing the cigarette tobacco companies to advertise in a number of newspapers and magazines, that was also an effective tool where our government worked with the publishing companies to try and discourage that. And making the bars and the restaurants smoke-free was another effective tool, Mr. Speaker. Even though there's a lot of debates and arguments and fights on all those three particular fronts, we found that some of these efforts to discourage smoking was indeed very effective.

And I want to say at the outset that there was a lot of information that was presented to me, and in my own stubborn way, I didn't want to accept some of the evidence. But after years and years of the effort to curb smoking, Mr. Speaker, I can say today that I was mistaken and that the member, the former minister of Health, from Lakeview, was absolutely correct. And he championed a lot of the anti-smoking initiatives such as described in Bill 94, which is of course also meant to discourage smoking by increasing the cost of cigarettes overall.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure where I picked up the information, but there was a story of an analogy of how cigarette smoking can affect one's life. And if anybody out there is listening to the presentation on smoking overall and some of the effects that the minister alluded to when you have smokers and people smoking on a regular basis, and this bill, Bill 94, I want to remind him of one simple thing, that we must do all we can to discourage smoking.

I want to encourage those smokers that are smoking now to begin the process of not smoking. And one of the most important visual things that I'll share with them, Mr. Speaker, is a story I heard — whether it's true or not I don't know. But they had taken the esophagus, the tube that leads from the back of your throat into your stomach area, they had taken the esophagus of a non-smoking, healthy person and they had taken

the esophagus of a smoking person who considered him or herself healthy. And what they had done, Mr. Speaker, is once they had these two esophaguses on the lab table, they took a rolling pin and they rolled out the contents of the esophagus onto the table. And the healthy esophagus had creamy, milky fluid that was excreted from the esophagus as they rolled the pin forward. And as they'd done this with the other esophagus of the smoker, Mr. Deputy Speaker — using the rolling pin again — when they rolled the pin across the smoker's esophagus a lot of black, tar-like substance came out of that esophagus.

And the illustration, as it was explained to me, was to show how tobacco products, namely through smoking or chewing snuff, of how the esophagus is meant to trap some of the particles. That's what the white, creamy fluid was. And from the healthy esophagus it is meant to attract particles and to attract nutrients and to hold nutrients and to allow the flow of food from your mouth to your stomach. Now what happens is when you have a lot of smoking happening, your esophagus traps a lot of the tars and the other chemicals used in cigarettes.

So one of the things I would encourage people is to really look at some of the visuals of what I just compared in terms of a healthy esophagus versus a smoker's esophagus. If that doesn't discourage people from smoking . . . I can tell you that it was something that I heard a number of years ago. And to me I think that's one of the best deterrents. I think somebody should make a commercial of that, if that was the case, to show people exactly what dangers that smoking could pose to your health.

The other issue, too, I think is important, Mr. Speaker, on the Bill 94, when the minister talks about discouraging people from smoking, is that I had the pleasure of visiting my father a number of years ago in the hospital. And he had smoked for a number of years. And one of the things that they did to him while he was in the hospital — obviously he couldn't smoke; he wasn't allowed to smoke — and what they did during the day, the nurses would come to his room and they'd start doing a bunch of, like, pounding on the side of his chest. Not really hard of course but what they were doing was they were just . . . And rolling him over and doing the other side. And after three or four days of that, he finally asked the nurses what they were doing. And apparently what they were trying to do was to lodge some of the years of smoking that he had. He obviously had some very bad buildup of tar products in his lungs. And as they were hitting the side of his chest, they were trying to loosen some of that stuff up, out, so he'd be able to cough it out and clear his lungs a bit.

And that's another visual I think is important, Mr. Speaker, is that after years and years of smoking, not only is your esophagus basically trapping particles from the tobacco products, but then your lungs get to store all of the terrible substances and the chemicals that are in cigarette smoking, and that really affects your health overall.

So the visual effects of the healthy esophagus versus the smoker's esophagus, the visual of having an older guy who has smoked for years, as the case with my father was when the nurses were hitting his chest to jar some of the years and years of tar deposits out of the inside of his lungs — these are some of the things, I think, Mr. Speaker, we need to have more and

more visual aids of that sort to tell people this is what happens when you smoke over the years, the yellow fingers, the terrible smell around you, and of course the danger to your entire health system, not just the lungs and of course not just the esophagus.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we tell the people the dangers and the threats of smoking. And the biggest thing I would point out is that we obviously have the warnings on the tobacco cases themselves as another deterrent. I think there is recent rules about smoking in a vehicle with children present. There's also that particular issue that people are working their way towards.

So there's a lot of ways in which we could discourage smoking. And one of the things that I think is really important is now it's becoming the norm where smokers, if you can find them, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of people socially don't smoke anymore, and they don't allow smoking in their homes. And one of the things that I think is important is that we encourage those people to continue that particular effort because it's not about judging other people whether they smoke or not, or not about respecting your privacy or respecting your choice; it's really about protecting your health. And that's one of the things that's really important to note.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I go back to the issue of the bars and the restaurants that don't allow smoking, that aren't allowed to have smoking areas anymore, from what I can gather, business actually improved following the implementation of the rules where you couldn't smoke in the bars, you couldn't smoke in the restaurants. People were now coming out to restaurants. Why? Because there's no cigarette smoking. Before it was really problematic that people wouldn't go to restaurants or bars because there was so much smoking. And now as a result of some of the rules, I think you're finding that businesses are actually doing much better when they don't allow smoking because a lot of people will go into a restaurant to enjoy a good meal without having to have the cigarette smell all over their clothes or them inhaling second-hand smoke.

I think that's something that again that I stand corrected on because in those days in cabinet, I was worried that this would have a detrimental effect on the restaurant business and of course on the lounge and the bar business. And little did I know at the time, but in hindsight it shows that these businesses actually do much better because of the non-smoking rules because more people go there to sit in a social environment — whether it's in a lounge or the bar or a restaurant — without having to inhale second-hand smoke.

So I think the overall, vast improvement to the effort to curb smoking was actually good for the economy overall. So there's all kinds of solid arguments. There are all kinds of good notional efforts that people could make to curb smoking overall, and that effort has to be recognized, Mr. Speaker.

And what's really important is that increasing the price of cigarettes, as identified in Bill 94, by \$1 a pack will generate \$45 million in extra revenues for the province of Saskatchewan. Which leads me to my point, Mr. Speaker, is that I want to make sure that the \$45 million extra, the \$45 million extra that the Sask Party government is taking in as a result of their increase on the packages of cigarettes, we have to know how

that \$45 million is going to be used to try and do more, to decrease the increase of . . . or decrease the amount of people smoking in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, if we're generating \$45 million in new revenues this year because of this bill, and we're increasing the pack of cigarettes to each pack by \$1, that would lead one to easily assume, as I said at the outset, that we are now selling 45 million packages of cigarettes every year in Saskatchewan.

And imagine for a moment the damage that those 45 million packages of cigarettes are doing to the people's health in our province. And that's one of the things that's so very important is that if this sin tax is simply a tax grab, then it defeats the purpose of what the Lung Association is trying to do, and then that is to deter people from continuing to smoking and to discourage young people from starting.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think what's really important is that if you look at the \$45 million that is going to be generated, how much of that is going to be spent to certain efforts to stop smoking? And that's the whole notion that I think people are worried about, and that the Lung Association is paying very close attention to, and that people that want to champion more efforts to discourage smoking overall, they want to make sure that there's some dedicated revenues that if you're increasing the taxes on smoking products or tobacco products such as cigarettes and chewing tobacco, then shouldn't a portion of that go directly towards discouraging people from continuing to smoke or discouraging young people from picking up that pack of cigarettes?

That's what's really important, Mr. Speaker. And I think that the effort behind the former minister of Health to denormalize cigarette smoking overall, denormalize tobacco use, I think was an effort that is worth, you know, a lot of the positive news that we hear about those that have quit smoking, the positive news that we've heard of young people that have decided not to take up smoking.

[15:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, I think we owe a lot of thanks to the former minister of Health for championing some of the efforts that we see today such as no smoking in the bars and no smoking in the restaurants, despite a lot of aggressive overtures from a number of cabinet members at the time — and I was one of them — that thought some of the measures that the former minister of Health was putting in place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thought were a bit over the top. But today I can tell you that there are studies that'll qualify and quantify what he said at the time to discourage people from smoking.

So we have a lot of work to do in this particular bill. If it's just meant to be a tax grab to balance the books, which we know are not balanced . . . You know, the auditor said these books aren't balanced. But under the guise of trying to put a sin tax in place, my only argument is that there's no question from the opposition perspective — discouraging people from smoking is key.

The second thing is, if all this is a tax grab and it's not going

to be used to continue some of that effort, then it's counterproductive. The Lung Association will tell you, you don't have a sin tax for the sake of having a sin tax. You put a sin tax in to generate more revenues for the government to put in more programs and a better, intelligent response to curb cigarette smoking. Because I know that the minister mentioned and alluded to in his notice that Saskatchewan remains stubbornly high in the amount of smokers on a per capita basis, that we go through a lot of tobacco products.

Well if we're stubbornly high, it's because the government is not using these sin tax opportunities to address the issue. Where's the \$45 million going? Mr. Speaker, it's going back into their deficit budget. So it's kind of counterproductive when you see all the great historical work being done on this particular file as it relates to Bill 94 and then you see the minister grabbing 45 million bucks out of the smokers' hands and not doing anything to address the issue. But that's par for the course, Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm concerned when it comes to the Sask Party government.

And again, Bill 94, as I mentioned, you know, it's all about increasing the sin tax and there's no correlation in information from the minister's presentation of his own bill, the Minister of Finance, as to how he's going to use that money to continue on the good work that the NDP undertook when they were in government a short five, six years ago.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we basically have these questions out there. We know that there are people that want to get engaged. We know that there are people that have learned their lesson when it comes to cigarette smoking, and we would hope that the government would again not only do the sin tax increase, but to commit and dedicate a large portion of those new revenues they've got, \$45 million, to find ways in which we can discourage the sale of 45 million packages of cigarettes sold in Saskatchewan each and every year. And, Mr. Speaker, in the 10-year time frame, that's 45 billion — 45 billion packages of cigarettes that Saskatchewan would have used. And over a 10-year time frame, Mr. Speaker, a lot needs to be done to address that alarming trend. And if all you're doing is just taking this sin tax as extra revenue for yourself and not addressing that issue, then it defeats the purpose. It defeats the purpose of a sin tax if it's only used to try and balance the books of the Sask Party government, which we all know is not balanced, Mr. Speaker.

So on that note, I want to wrap up my conversation and my comments on this particular bill, Bill 94. I know that we'll have other issues we'll want to raise in committee, and we'll take the opportunity then to address some of the other issues that we want to talk to as it relates to Bill 94.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 94, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 95

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 95 — *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — I thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's with great interest I rise today to speak to this recently tabled bill, Bill No. 95. It's got a long name: *An Act respecting the Operation of Public Registry Statutes, establishing the Office of Public Registry Administration and making consequential and related amendments to other Acts*.

And before I get started, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to comment on how interesting it is to hear my colleague speak about the tobacco tax and the changes to tobacco smoking in Saskatchewan. And it's something we certainly take for granted now, but what a story that was. And I remember people saying, you know, bars would go out of business and that would be the end of social life in Saskatchewan. But I think indeed, as my colleague commented, it's not the case at all. And now it's the norm, the new norm.

But it's always good to hear the descriptions of people that were here during the debate and during the actual development of these new initiatives. So I know some day somebody's going to talk about what we're doing here today and look back on it and say, I remember when. So it's always an opportunity for a rookie MLA like me to sort of get a sense of the perspective that happens in this Chamber and in the Assembly.

As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill is the creation of the ministry for certain purposes, and particularly to facilitate Bill 69 which is before the Assembly, in terms of the creation of a new, privately owned land titles corporation. And so we know that in October that bill was foisted upon the legislature, and I think in a very quick fashion. And I think this bill is an example of why . . . or is evidence that that bill was introduced very quickly because this is a huge piece of work that you could see public servants have had to do. And they had to comb through many, many, many statutes, do a whole ton of work, and they're amending probably between 10 to 15 different statutes. In fact I can tell you exactly how many there are.

There's one, two, three, four . . . In this Act there are 16 Acts that have to be changed because of that Bill 69. And then in the next bill, Bill 95, there's another three Acts that have to be changed, and they're bilingual Acts, or Bill 96.

So this is a big, big piece of work on the part of public servants. And what it does is it puts through many contortions the former Crown corporation, Information Services Corporation, which because it's being privatized is now being . . . There's all kinds of things that had to happen behind the scenes to make that work. And it's somewhat ironic I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it's been contorted and twisted back into a shape that somewhat resembles what was there previously, but certainly with the imposition of a new privately owned corporation that will be put up for offer. In June, I believe the IPO [initial public offering] will be introduced in June, and it's going to significantly change the bottom line for this government in terms of their revenues on an annual basis. And there's a number other of concerns, of course, that arise out of the privatization of Crown corporations.

So just to sort of give you a flavour of what's in this bill, the first few pages deal with the establishment of a new office and the repatriation, if you want to use that term, of a number of registry type functions or director functions that are currently housed within the Crown corporation. And this was all part of the grand plan back in 2000 when ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] was modernized, when the electronic record was created in place of the paper record for our land titles office. And I'll get into that a little bit later, once I look at some of the statutes that have to be amended in order to create this new strange entity that will be the privatized Information Services Corporation.

So you can see in the Act itself there's a number of definitions. And the definition section actually tells a large part of the story for this bill and how ISC is going to be reflected after Bill 69 is passed and this bill as well. Bill 69 certainly could not pass without this companion piece. One of our concerns, I think, from an opposition perspective is that this bill should've been introduced at the same time that Bill 69 came in. Obviously the homework wasn't done. That bill was introduced in October. We're now six months later when we finally get this bill introduced. It was just introduced last week in the Chamber here, and that's really too late for proper consideration of a bill of this sort before the end of the session.

So we're not exactly certain why it took so long, although I suspect when I look at the number of Acts that had to be amended, there were several Justice lawyers combing through many, many pieces of legislation in order to ensure that Bill 69 would be properly enacted. So it's just a ton of work that you can see that has gone into this piece. And I again would extend my kudos to the good public servants over at the Ministry of Justice, who I know how hard this is and how time consuming it is. And so for them to be able to pull this together, before the end of this session even, I think was a monumental achievement. And certainly I think the onus was on them to perform a very significant task in light of the government's hasty decision to privatize the Information Services Corporation.

So in the definition section we see something called contractor,

and it seems to be an innocuous term. Contractor is with respect to any public registry statute, someone who the minister has entered into a service agreement with. Well that's the essence of this whole bill, is we have now government contracting with this newly formed private corporation, Information Services Corporation. And so the whole relationship is reduced to a contractual relationship. Mind you, it's embedded within a statute but it's still, I think, really down plays the importance of those registries in the functioning of our public service and in the functioning of public administration. And it just seems that to reduce it to a contractual relationship in this sense is disappointing at best, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next definition we see in the Act is a deputy registry officer. And that's pretty straightforward. No issues there. Just that's a deputy registry officer appointed pursuant to a public registry statute.

Then the third definition is the initials ISC, and that refers to Information Services Corporation as the Crown. So this is necessary in this Act to refer to ISC before it becomes private, and then the rest of it relates to ISC after it's privatized. So in this Act, ISC after it's privatized is the contractor. ISC before it's privatized is ISC. So just to make that clear as we go through this bill.

The next significant definition is the definition of office. And that reads:

“Office” means the Office of Public Registry Administration established pursuant to section 7.

So once we get to section 7, we'll have a look at what that office looks like. But this is the new piece. It's a whole new government body that has to be created because the privatization of ISC is being sort of carved up, and only certain portions are going and certain portions are staying.

So it becomes very complicated and quite bureaucratic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of how ISC is going forward as a private corporation. It certainly will not have any of the full force and effect of what it is as a Crown corporation. It'll be a shadow of its former self, essentially. And these registry positions are now being clawed back into the public service, and we'll talk more about that later.

The next description I think that's a definition that's important in this section is the description found in section 2(1)(h), and that's the public registry statute. Now this provides I think a fair bit of discretion for the ministry in terms of what can be listed in here because it says a public registry statute is an Act designated pursuant to subsection (2), which is a list of Acts that I will get to in a minute, and includes any regulations.

And then it goes on with this strange subsection (ii) which says:

an Act for which a contractor is authorized to exercise powers or fulfil duties in accordance with subsection 10(1) and includes the regulations made pursuant to that Act.

And section 10 is the delegation of powers section, so we'll get into that in a little bit as well.

I think one of the concerns . . . And I certainly want to spend a considerable amount of time today talking about concerns raised recently by the Privacy Commissioner with respect to this bill. And he has some significant concerns in relation to that. And just as a flag, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's very disappointing that the Ministry of Justice chose not to consult with the Privacy Commissioner on this particular bill because there are a number of significant concerns that he has raised after the fact. He wasn't consulted prior to it being drafted.

[16:00]

And again I can imagine the pressure that the ministry was under to produce this bill. I fear that they simply didn't have enough time to take the proper measured consultations that were necessary to ensure that this bill does not threaten the privacy rights of individuals. And there's a number of comments I want to raise in relation to that once I get through the bill.

There's the definition of registry found in (i), and this basically says any registry under a public registry statute.

The next interesting definition is registry officers. So who are these people now that are going to be clawed back from the full Crown corporation known as ISC or Information Services Corporation? Who are these people that are going to be cut out of that corporation and put back into the public service? Well we have the director of corporations; the registrar as defined in *The Companies Act*. We have the registrar as defined as in *The Co-operatives Act*. We have the registrar of titles, who's appointed under *The Land Titles Act, 2000*. We have the controller of surveys appointed pursuant to *The Land Surveys Act, 2000*. We have the registrar of personal property security, who's appointed under *The Personal Property Security Act, 1993*; and the ubiquitous “any other prescribed person.”

So certainly we see here, the minister — whichever minister will be responsible for this operation of public registry statutes — can add registrars at will as, I suppose, new public registries are created or other existing registries are pulled into this office and as well be, I guess, subcontracted out to ISC for service delivery.

The next main definition and the last definition is service agreement, and that refers to Part II of the Act. And there's a very long portion of the Act that's devoted to what can be found in these service agreements.

Subsection (2) lists all the Acts for which this new office will be created and, I assume, for which ISC will provide services to. So there's a lot of very important bills that are subject to this, and I'm going to go through them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The first one is *The Business Corporations Act*. That's a major piece of legislation for which we have a director of corporations. Same with *The Business Names Registration Act* and *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act* and *The Companies Act*. I believe all those . . . No. The first three are certainly under the auspices of the director of corporations, and under *The Companies Act*, they have their own registrar.

We have *The Condominium Property Act*, which is currently

under the responsibility of the registrar of titles. We have *The Co-operatives Act*; *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*; *The Land Information Services Facilitation Act*; *The Land Surveys Act*, which is of course the controller of surveys; *The Land Titles Act*, which would be the registrar of titles. We have *The Names of Homes Act*. And I don't know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you're aware of *The Names of Homes Act*, and this is a very interesting little piece of legislation. And I think anyone in the Assembly, if they're aware of it, they can actually apply under *The Names of Homes Act* and get their own name . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — I am having some difficulty hearing the member from Nutana, so I would ask that perhaps the conversations that are taking place, perhaps we use a somewhat lower level. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was just referring to a piece of legislation called *The Names of Homes Act*. And this is something that may be of interest to the Assembly. Really, for a small application fee you can apply to whatever registrar is responsible for that, and give your home a name. And it can become, by law, the official name of your home. So it could be Shady Nook Home or Our Place of Rest or Our Haven, or whatever you want to name your home. And it can actually be officially named in legislation. So I have some friends who have done that in Saskatoon, and I think it's kind of an interesting thing.

I don't know what the history of that bill is, or that Act, but it's an interesting little piece of legislation that will now be subject to, I guess, management by this new privatized corporation. If you make your application, it'll end up in the new ISC and you will get to pay your fees to a privately held company rather than going into the coffers of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The next Act that is affected by this bill is *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*. We also have *The Non-profit Corporations Act* of course, which is managed by the director of corporations, as well as *The Partnership Act*. And then finally, *The Personal Property Security Act*, which is managed by the registrar of personal property security.

So that's the types of Acts that are being clawed back from ISC as the Crown, being put back into the public service through this bill, and for which the new ISC will become a much, again as I said before, a shadow of its former self.

Part II is really the, if it's not the meat and potatoes of the agreement, it's certainly the meat of the agreement, or of the new Act. And this is the description of this service agreement that the Government of Saskatchewan will enter into with the contractor, small C contractor, as defined in the Act. And I'm hoping it will be ISC. There's nothing in here that requires the minister to enter into a contract with the new Information Services Corporation, so I think there's discretion there as well. We can only hope that that's who will get the contract respecting these public registry statutes.

But the first clause, 4(1), of the service agreement section says that the minister on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan

can enter into a service agreement with a contractor respecting a public registry statute. So there you go. We have the minister with the authority. He can enter into a contract with anyone, basically, as defined under contractor. So that could be anyone. It could be maybe you. Maybe Mr. Deputy Speaker and myself form our own business, and we want to provide land titles services. We can apply to the minister and provide those services. So there's no restriction on the minister to deal with the new Crown corporation under this section, and I think that's something of note, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The second part of the clause (2) says that if a service agreement is entered into, the contractor is going to manage this and provide all the services in accordance with this Act, the public registry statute, and the service agreement. So that's basic provisions in terms of these types of agreements.

And then section (3) lists quite a large number of things that the agreement, the service agreement would contain. There's about 20 or more different types of things like dispute resolution, obligations on termination, and those types of normal contracting clauses. So there's a statutory provision that prescribes what the terms of the contract will be.

And then there's a section going on, section 5, is if . . . It says that if the minister and the contractor enter into a service agreement, everything that that contractor does is deemed to be taken by and on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. So there's a deeming provision there I think, which is quite interesting. And it really creates a tie between what this private corporation will be doing and the Government of Saskatchewan in a legal fashion. So that's an interesting clause, I think, that may bear some further examination.

Section 6 is in relation to the fees. So we've got a service agreement. We've got a ministry, and we've got a contractor. What about the fees? And section 6 tells us that the contractor can establish and charge a fee for any service or function it provides or performs pursuant to the public registry statute. And the contractor doesn't have to do anything until the fee is paid or arrangements, satisfactory arrangements have been made to pay the fee. And these fees have to be public, so the contractor has to publish the fees in the manner that he's agreed to do so or they've agreed to do. And also the fees, the subsection (4) is notwithstanding any provision in the statute or any other Act. The fees are the fees that must be paid to the contractor, "And any fees established pursuant to the public registry statute do not apply."

So I'm not sure exactly what the intent of that is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but the contractors' fees are their fees it looks like. And the fees under the public registry statute would not apply. Those fees are the property of the contractors. So it appears to me that there will be fees established in the public registry statutes like *The Land Titles Act* that are prescribed by law, and then the contractor will enter into their own additional fees for the services they are providing. So I don't know if this will cause a double whammy in terms of services fees or if fees are going to actually go up. We know that the ones established at law are the ones that are currently charged. So again there's going to be more questions about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I think we'll need to take a very close look at that.

The next clause in relation to fees is section 6(5), and here we have the registry officer which is now the public realm, the officer under the public authority. And they can also waive fees or direct contractors to refund any fees in whole or in part. I think this is a good example of where this new private corporation is really a strange kind of corporation because most private corporations set their own fees in relation to what the market bears or what their competition are doing. Of course this is a monopoly. This new corporation will be the only one providing these services in Saskatchewan, and we have a government that can control the fees or waive fees on behalf of the contractor. So it seems to be the long arm of government reaching into this new corporation in many ways, and of course we know that under the Bill 69 the government will still own 60 per cent of the shares of the new corporation plus the golden share. That's been established under Bill 69 as well.

So it's a strange beast, Mr. Speaker. I think this is a really unique kind of privately held corporation that really doesn't have any equivalent in the private market at all, and as a monopoly I mean it really is not something that we see very often in a public regime. So it could be interesting to see how all that pans out.

Part III is the new creation of the office of the public registry administration. So here we have section 7 which creates the office of the public registry administration. In this section, the minister can provide any kind of assistance — technical, clerical or other types of assistance — that the office requires. And who is in this office? Well it's the registry officers that I referred to earlier and other employees who are necessary to fulfill the functions of this office.

Now we know for the upcoming budget cycle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a line in the Ministry of Justice on the allocations for this office, and it looks like it's \$420,000 under the budget allocations. If you look at the five individuals, at least that we know will be now located in that office: the registrar, the personal property security, the comptroller of surveys, the registrar of titles, and the director of corporations as well as the registrar in *The Companies Act* and *The Co-operatives Act*. I think that's the same person. Those are five individuals at \$420,000.

I don't know how far that's going to go when it comes to salaries right off the hop and then what other clerical support these folks are going to need. So there may be other salaries that are required over and above the five that have been identified, and I suspect that this is going to cost this government a whole lot more than \$420,000 a year. And perhaps it's low at this point because we know that this won't take place until later in the year once the initial private offering is made. . Or perhaps the day this bill is passed, they will be taking their new offices whenever the Royal Assent is given to this bill.

So it's costing this government at least half a million dollars already just to have this Act, and there's no suggestion anywhere that the cost of the office is going to be pushed on to Information Services Corporation which is a private corporation. And that's another question that we're going to have and want to look at closely.

Now section 8, he talks about what are these registry officers, what will their status be? And it's very clear that these registry officers are now going to be employees and agents of the Government of Saskatchewan "for all purposes related to a public registry statute and registry services." So "all actions of a registry officer . . . are deemed to be taken on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan." This is a very clear, clear statutory provision that indicates that these officers are clearly Government of Saskatchewan employees, agents and that all their actions are taken on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The clause goes on to say that "no person shall attempt to direct a registry officer in the performance of any statutory duty" and that's a typical clause you would find in one of these types of sections. And finally, the registry officer has an obligation under subsection (4) to "report to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General any business or practice of a contractor or of any other person that, in the opinion of the registry officer, impairs the registry officer's ability to carry out his or her powers . . ."

[16:15]

So I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, back in, I think it was 2003, I spent about nine months working as a Crown land expert for the registry and for the land titles system as a Crown corporation, as Information Services Corporation. And there was definitely . . . This was the third year that ISC was in existence, and there was a lot of interesting tensions or discussions between the role of the registrar and then the corporate or management function of the corporation.

And you could see that having taken a function like a registrar, which had been in existence for decades . . . We had the master of titles, and we had all the registrars of the local land titles offices. All of those positions were now in a corporate environment, and there was a lot of angst about that. There was a lot of concern about what the actual role of the registrar was, vis-à-vis the public, and then what the role of the corporation was in terms of managing the business of the Crown corporation.

And it was an interesting dichotomy that we saw unfolding in terms of the evolution of this Crown corporation. And I got to know the people involved there quite well. And the registrar had some very important public functions to serve, and the management of the corporation also had what they saw as their important contributions. So there was some definite to-ing and fro-ing and different perspectives that presented themselves when you looked at those two functions.

So now what we have is the registry officers, particularly the registrar of titles and the director of the abstract registry, being put back into the government function and that if anything that the contractors do that impairs the registrar's ability to carry out their functions, the registrar has to report that to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

So I think I'm going to follow this very closely. It'll be interesting to see how it all unfolds, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because what will the Minister of Justice do with this information? If the contractor is still meeting their obligations

under the service agreement and yet the registry officer is not able to carry out their powers — and again that was the kind of tension I think that was presenting itself when the Crown corporation was formed, was the ability of the registrar to provide a public service vis-à-vis the need of the corporation to provide funds to their shareholders like a healthy bottom line — those are not always compatible, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so this is some section I think that will be very interesting to follow as we go along.

Well, you know, these folks, these registry officers are certainly going to be within the government when we look at section 9. The following Acts that apply to them are *The Public Service Act*, *The Public Service Superannuation Act*, the public employees pension Act, and *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Act*. So certainly these registry officers will be much like they were before the formation of the Crown corporation Information Services Corporation.

There's an interesting delegation clause in section 10. And there we see a registry officer is able to delegate any powers or duties imposed on the registry officer by an Act to any employer or agent of the Government of Saskatchewan or — and here's the interesting clause — to the contractor or any employee of the contractor. So we have these registry officers can now delegate their powers not only to employees of the Government of Saskatchewan but to the contractor and any employee of the contractor who's providing services for the Act.

Now the section goes on to say that even if there is a delegation done, the registry officer is still responsible for any actions that are taken by their delegate and also that they can continue to exercise that power themselves. So even if it's delegated to someone else, it doesn't mean that that officer couldn't continue to exercise the power independently themselves. So we'll watch those clauses, and we'll have more questions on those as well as we go through this in committee, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Part IV of the Act is what I would call some boilerplate type clauses dealing with immunities, transfers of liability, indemnification. The interesting part on part IV is in section 11, and this is who owns the information. And I think this is a very important question for the public, the people in the public. No longer will Information Services Corporation own the information. That information that they hold in all of the registries, all of the records, all the information in these registries will be the property of the Government of Saskatchewan.

And so that's an interesting clause, and I think one that bears examination. We want to see that the ownership of this information remains in the Crown. I think the idea of just creating the private corporation to do the services and functions of the Crown agency or these registries is still not exactly the way to go, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But it is, I think, positive to see that the information and the records in the registry remain the property of the Government of Saskatchewan. I think that's something that's very important.

And access to those records “is to be provided only in accordance with this Act, the relevant public registry statute,

and the relevant service agreement.” And I think, Mr. Speaker, when you look at some of the concerns of the Privacy Commissioner, this is one of the concerns that he has, whether the language in this section is strident and strong enough to prevent abuse of the information through the Internet and various electronic means.

Part V is the next section that we can look at. In section 15, there's only two sections in this part. Section 15 allows, and this is a fairly strong power that the registry officer or the minister has, where they can actually suspend any or all registry services or functions for the period that those circumstances prevail, and the circumstances described there, where would they do this, and when, where the circumstances are such that it's not practical to provide one or more registry services or functions.

So whatever that might mean. When it's not practical to provide any of these functions, I really can't even think of a situation where that might come up. But surely the drafters have, so I assume there's some concern there about the ability for the registry officials, the registry officers to suspend those activities over and above the service agreement and the promises made in the contract. So there's an order then that they can make under subsection (1) that's to be gazetted, and there's other different provisions. They have to identify what's being suspended and the date and time that it will be suspended, and it has to happen not more than 30 days before the order is made. So there's some timeframes there in subsection (2).

In subsection (3) the registry office or the minister can recommence all these activities effective as any date that they deem appropriate. So not only can they suspend the activities, they can recommence them. And the order has to identify what's being recommenced in the same way as the suspension has occurred. It also has to be published in the *Gazette*.

So that's an interesting power that I think the registry office or the minister has, and I think giving the minister the authority to suspend land titles functions or land registry functions or our business corporation functions seems to be a strong power for a minister to have. But I think that's something we see in a lot of the legislation that's coming from this government.

If I think of the . . . I forget the name of the Act, but it's the one introduced recently by the Minister for Government Relations where the minister can actually create, not planning and development commissions, but regional planning commissions. And the minister has all the power in that particular bill. And here we see the minister giving himself power in relation of operation of registries, which I think you would not find in any previous land titles statute or land survey statute. So interesting to see that kind of position being presented in this section and in this part of the Act.

The next section I think that's important is section 16. It's the second part of part V. And this is where the board of directors of the contractor, so in this case we would assume the board of directors of the new ISC, would . . . The government can discharge them. Period. The section says:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint an administrator for a term specified by the Lieutenant

Governor in Council to discharge the powers, duties and functions of the board of directors of a contractor with respect to the management and operation of a registry or the provision of registry services . . .

And when they would do that is when the minister is of the opinion that there's an immediate and direct threat that could compromise significantly the management and operation of the registry.

So here we have again the authority of the minister and where in his or her opinion there's an immediate and direct threat to the registry that the Lieutenant Governor in Council can appoint an administrator who will do all the things that the board of directors of the contractor were currently doing. And if that's the case, and there's an order by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint an administrator, the board of the contractor cease to hold office unless otherwise ordered by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this seems to me to be a good example of where this beast, the new ISC, has a lot of weird sort of genetic features that you wouldn't find in an ordinary company. Because I don't think anyone in this Assembly could find another piece of legislation that could suspend the board of directors of a company and appoint an administrator on behalf of the government to manage that company. So it's extraordinary, I think. It's certainly not ordinary. It's extraordinary.

And it just shows the weird connection in this thing between the government wanting to retain certain things within the Crown but wanting to have some sort of private company that's doing things, but the government can step in at any time and take over the role of the board of directors of that company. Imagine any other company that a government would do that and the hue and cry that would ensue if governments insinuated themselves in the business of private businesses.

Even though the government continues to hold 40 per cent of the shares, this will be a private company. And I guess part of it is in relation to the fact that it is a monopoly. And again that's extraordinary, where we are creating a privately held company that is a monopoly, and there will be no other competition available. Certainly with, you know . . . Maybe at some point the government might decide to let somebody else provide land titles registry services or the other services that ISC is currently providing. But it seems strange to create a private company that immediately has a monopoly on the business that it's being created for.

Part VI is the regulations provisions. Again you know, and I've said this before in this Assembly and that is, the regulatory powers that are being given in modern legislation is vast. And certainly I understand the idea that, you know, with the complexity of modern governments, regulations are extremely complex and to bring every regulation before the House for approval would unnecessarily tie up the business of the House. But we see that this regulation clause allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations prescribing additional matters to be included in service agreements, regulations respecting the suspension of registry services or functions, or the recommencement of services or functions, or any other

matter or thing required or authorized by the Act to be prescribed in the regulations.

And then of course there's always the catch-all, very broad power of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations "respecting any other matter or thing that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Act." So it's giving great powers to the executive arm of government to continue to regulate this new beast and the new office without ever bringing it before the House again. So these are things that I think that are of concern.

I know that the minister indicated in his opening comments that there will be a tabling of these contracts. I don't see it in the bill itself and perhaps I missed that section. It could be in the service provision section, things that come out of the service agreement. I know he indicated that they would be tabled. Yes there it is. Something I should mention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is in section 4(4), and this is in the service agreement part, "the minister [must] . . . lay before the Legislative Assembly every service agreement entered into by the minister within 90 days after the agreement is entered into." So although the Assembly will not see the agreement before it's entered into, it will be tabled. And so there will be an opportunity for public scrutiny at that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But that of course is after it's been signed, so there wouldn't be any opportunity for suggesting amendments or raising concerns about the content of the service agreement.

[16:30]

At this point in time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm just going to talk a little bit about some of the consequential amendments under this bill, Bill No. 95. There's a number of statutes that are being amended. The first division in Part VII, which is the related and consequential amendments, deals with *The Business Corporations Act*. And this is a good example I think of where you see the hard work of the folks in the ministry having to go through line by line of very long and complex statutes and analyzing what the impact of carving these registry functions out of the Information Services Corporation as a Crown, bringing them back into government, and then putting the much less — or shadow of its former self is the best phrase I can come up with, Mr. Deputy Speaker — but the new ISC which is a much smaller and I think relegated to a much less important function within our public service for sure and more of a service provider than it is currently where it's got a very important role in terms of directing the future of the registries for which it's providing the services.

So in *The Business Corporations Act* amendment, we see quite a big change to sections 279 to 279.3, and this relates to the fees in particular and how the director is going to be appointed. So what the Act had to do, I presume, was to take out the provisions of the director being under ISC. Now the director is no longer under ISC and is brought back into the Crown itself. And the fees that the director can charge are now established under the new 279.1. And it says that they can enter into an agreement for special services like we see in other registry authorities.

And it says here all revenues derived from fees are the property

of the Crown unless the Lieutenant Governor in Council directs otherwise. So this is a piece I think where we'll have more questions. How is this going to work? If business corporation fees collected under the Act, *The Business Corporations Act*, are going to be the property of the Crown, then what is left for the contractor? Is that a separate set of fees that will be charged in addition? Is *The Business Corporations Act* going to keep the same fees that it has now, and that's what you pay under Information Services Corporation? Are there going to be . . . It sounds like there will be two sets of fees. And will the sum of those two fees be greater than the current fee? And I think those are the kinds of things that we're going to have to follow up with in committee with the minister.

There is some transactional clauses here about the former director and then finally the immunity clause which is a typical boilerplate clause but you will see where, as the director moves out of ISC and into the Crown, who's immune from what actions. I won't go into the detail on that clause. There's a number of other small amendments that have to be done to *The Business Corporations Act* in order to bring forth the new ISC.

The second division in this Act is *The Business Names Registration Act*, and there's a few amendments that we see about fees again as prescribed in the regulations. And there's a couple of new subsections where it's actually creating a public registry. So if you look at the new subsection 4(2.1), "The business names registered pursuant to the existing subsections (1) and (2) form a public registry of the people of Saskatchewan."

And the next clause reads, (2.2), that "All information in the registry is the property of the Government of Saskatchewan". So again it's very clear that the intention of this government is that ISC is not to take ownership of any of the records or the information in any of the registries for which it provides services.

There's a number of other changes that are included in this again in relation to fees. And the big change I think in *The Business Names Registration Act* is the section 25. It's a new section, and it allows the minister to establish the fees for these types of services. And it's almost identical to the previous clause in *The Business Corporations Act*. So a bit of a theme emerging there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the way fees are going to be charged and that these fees are the property of the Crown.

Division 3 is a few minor amendments to *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act*. And I don't think there's anything really of note in that division.

Division 4 is *The Companies Act*. And it looks like again some basic . . . some actually modernization and cleanup of some language in some of the sections. But again, section 54(3) of *The Companies Act* is being amended to deal with some of the fee issues. Also if you look at section 219(1), there is a repeal of the existing 219 and a new clause about companies failing to pay fees, and that's there to be seen.

And then the big change for *The Companies Act* is found in sections 240 to 240.3, and again we see almost identical language to the changes in *The Business Corporations Act* in

terms of how the director is appointed, the fees and charges that the registrar under *The Companies Act* can pass. In fact they're basically word for word the same changes as we see in *The Business Corporations Act*, and of course the immunity that I referred to earlier, and some transitional activities to make sure that the transition to this new body under the office of public registry statutes is made.

Division 5 there's some changes to *The Condominium Property Act*, and basically again it relates to fees. So we have section 112.1(2)(d) of the condominium Act being repealed and then a new section being added after subsection 112.1(2). And again it's the same language relating to fees that we have seen in the amendments of the other Acts. So there's some consistency being applied here across the board.

And I know the . . . I get a bit nostalgic here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because when I worked at ISC back in 2003, I'd been very intimately involved with all the bumps and troubles that happened when the conversion from the paper record went into the electronic record. And certainly condominiums were one of the most concerning and difficult problems that the new registry faced because when you think about condominiums and the ownership of them, they're really suspended in the air.

And the way ISC was designed and the new registry was designed for land titles was that every title would be attached to a geographical GPS [Global Positioning System] or GIS polygon, is what they called it. So it made a lot of difficulty for ISC and their computing people to arrange for a polygon in the air, so to speak. That wasn't one that was easily definable on a map or a GIS fabric that they had established for land titles purposes.

So the amount of computing work . . . And I think this is something the people of Saskatchewan have paid for, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But just building that system alone, it was the first of its kind in North America, as far as I know, and perhaps even throughout the world, where you could actually have an electronic title in a computing system that was attached to an electronic geographical space.

And that was the beauty of the ISC system, and it was very sophisticated and certainly very novel at the time. And I'm not sure if other jurisdictions have taken it up because it was complicated. And what it required was a lot of work getting the fabric, the GIS fabric, in place.

And as I said, the condominiums, when they were being brought into the system, there was kind of this, oh oh, how are we going to do this? And I could tell you the amount of work that went into creating just the registry that would accommodate condominiums was significant and I think we saw a lot of the costs associated with bringing that system online. And that's the kind of things I think that often get overlooked, in terms of the volume of work and the attention to detail and the amount of brainpower that goes into creating these systems within a computerized environment or an electronic environment.

So it just sort of brings back a few memories of some of the troubles they had. Of course the other area that was really problematic for Information Services Corporation was the

mineral layer, because when you think about mineral titles in Saskatchewan, quite often they're done in terms of shares, like one-fifth or there could be four-fifths and one-fifth titles. So you're going to see titles for one-fifth of the minerals here and four-fifths there. And that's all historical, based on various portions of our province's history. Or you might see a situation where it could be coal and everything else but coal. And so all the way the commodities that were described within the mineral descriptions on titles had to be incorporated into the new legislation, but also within the GIS fabric.

And so it was a really fascinating time for me to sort of see how . . . Because you had to understand what was before you could move into the new world. And that's exactly what they called it, the new world. And those types of exercises of intellectual thinking were complex and certainly expensive. And I think the end result was well worth it.

But the new company that's getting the benefit of this is this privately owned corporation, the new ISC. And I'm not sure how you could value those assets, but I would think the people of Saskatchewan should be able to gain some profit, not just through the share offering but also for the assets, the intellectual property assets of that company because those are significant and they did cost the taxpayers many, many millions of dollars.

Of course we see now that the revenues are coming back through the annual fee that the corporation pays to the government, but I don't think we've anywhere near caught up on the costs that the taxpayers paid for to get this system up and running. So it seems somewhat unfair to turn that profit or the positive benefit of that over to individuals who purchased shares in the company. And we'll certainly have to look closely at how the IPO is structured to ensure that the taxpayers get their fair share of the profits for the sales of shares in this new company.

The next bill that is amended through this Bill 95, the operation of public registry statutes is *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. And this Act is under the supervision of the registrar of the personal property security. And again most of the amendments deal with fees. And Division 7 is an amendment of *The Land Information Services Facilitation Act*.

That's an interesting Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's one that's rather frozen in time. It was as we moved from the paper system to the electronic system for land titles. And the sections that are being repealed are 32, 33, and 34. And this is basically how the new Crown corporation, the new ISC back in the day was transitioned over, and all the assets that it received. I think we want to take a pretty close look at this section because it does describe all the assets that are being provided to Information Services Corporation as a Crown corporation. And as I mentioned earlier, it would be nice to ensure that the taxpayers' investment in the original Crown corporation is recouped appropriately. I'm not sure that's going to happen through the IPO or not.

Section 32 then is just a definition section. But 33 of *The Land Information Services Facilitation Act* is called the transitional section. It's the transfer of assets and liabilities. So this is how ISC got vested with the assets of the Government of Saskatchewan in the day. And then section 34 was the transition

of the employees to the Crown corporation, which was a big deal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it certainly affected a lot of people's lives within the individual land title offices in the various communities, but also in the head office of the corporation.

So then there's the amendments to the division 8, *The Land Surveys Act, 2000*. Again this is various technical changes that have to be done to ensure that the controller of surveys is no longer part of a Crown corporation, but it's now back within the public service directly.

And we see, again, a change to the fee clause, similar to the changes in the other legislation. And then division 9, *The Land Titles Act, 2000*, same thing: making sure that the registrar and is properly within the public service again. And section 118(1) is the fee clause. That's being changed there.

There's some other minor changes to *The Libel and Slander Act* and *The Names of Homes Act*. Again *The Names of Homes Act*, as I mentioned earlier, is available to any citizen here. And there's the fees again; the fee clause is being amended to reflect that of the others.

The same is going under *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*, same kinds of changes, and as well *The Partnership Act*, where the same language, and *The Personal Property Security Act*, significantly changed to ensure that the registrar is now back within the government fold and that the fees are being charged appropriately.

Division 16 is *The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act*. And it's being amended as well, although in that case we know that the role of vital statistics is now being transferred to eHealth, which will become the responsibility of the Minister of Health. And so that's worth a close look as well in division 16 to make sure that those are going to properly protect the individuals in question.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to bring into . . . That's basically my comments on the bill itself, but I do want to bring into the record some comments being . . . Oh, Mr. Speaker, you surprised me. I had my head down.

[16:45]

Mr. Speaker, I want to bring into the record some comments being made by the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner in a letter dated April 19, 2013. And in that letter he's indicated that he was not consulted at any time with respect to Bill 95. And certainly in committee last night he raised the same concerns with the minister.

The function of this commissioner is also an advisory function, and I think it's disappointing that the ministry for whatever reason . . . And I assume it's just the sheer pressure of time to do all the review of all the legislation they had to do to get this bill in place before the end of this session. He still took the time to provide some commentary, and he's raising some very, very, very interesting questions about the bill.

He says, in his second page of his letter, "The focus of my concern is that much of the information in the custody of the

government institutions in question is information about individuals.” And certainly that is of major concern, I think, to everyone. We don’t want to see that information misused. And that’s where I think some close examination of this bill is very necessary. And I’m anticipating that the minister is taking these comments very seriously, and hopefully we will see some amendments at the committee stage to ensure that these very valid points are being reflected.

One of the problems that the Privacy Commissioner has identified is the definition of public record. Within his own Act, the freedom of information and privacy Act, there is no definition of public record, and certainly there is none in this Act either. So he’s wondering if it would be appropriate to define that because it’s not defined anywhere else. And I think this is something the minister should take into account, is to ensure that there is a proper definition of public record, so that we know what information is public and what information is not. As is now stands, Bill 95 could draw in information that is currently private information of individuals.

And I think he describes that in the second point of the questions he listed on page 3. He said that there . . . You know, although the bill lists those 16 statutes in section 2(2) that I referred to earlier, it also includes that sort of generally wide open clause, “other matters that the minister and the contractor consider appropriate.” And his question is, what criteria will be applied in making this determination? And I think this is something else that we would look to the Minister of Justice to take a very close look at and say, how will the minister and the contractor decide what other information and what other matters can be drawn into a public statute bill like this?

And his next question, again, it’s a very good question, on the third question: “Is it appropriate to exclude materials and organizations altogether from FOIP in this summary fashion?” Because this is an interplay between section 3 of the freedom of information privacy Act and where it doesn’t apply to any material that’s a matter of public record. So FOIP doesn’t apply to public records. This could be a back door for the government to bring in information as a public record so that FOIP would no longer apply. And I think that’s a big concern from the Privacy Commissioner.

There’s all kinds of questions he has here. And I think we’ll be taking these up extensively in committee, so I’m not going to raise them today. But I think that it’s important that we look closely at these comments. He did not have a lot of time to prepare them. He obviously spent a lot of time and thought and provided a whole bunch of resources to the minister to think about, at least.

And it’s really, really unfortunate that the minister chose not to consult with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner before presenting this bill to the legislature. But it’s not too late. There’s still time. And hopefully within the committee process he will have time to bring forward some of the amendments.

A few more comments, Mr. Speaker. I think at the heart of this bill and at the heart of this legislative agenda for this session is privatization. And we see that this is a continuation of the privatization agenda of the Sask Party. We know that they’ve stated all along that they are interested in privatization, and this

is yet another example of that.

What has the Sask Party said about selling Crowns? Well we know even back in 2003 a former member for the Weyburn-Big Muddy, Brenda Bakken Lackey said, quote, some other 80-some Crowns will be sold. So it was an intention to sell them.

We know that in February of 2003 the member for Arm River-Watrous said that the Treasury Board Crowns would be sold off when the selling price would reap the best bang for the buck.

We know that the member for Cypress Hills told *The StarPhoenix* in 2004 about STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] if we could find private sector bus operations that would undertake the passenger and freight service that’s provided by STC, we would recommend that could happen. And this session alone, Mr. Speaker, we see STC, certain routes being cut. So we know where that’s headed.

We see the former member from Melfort told the *Leader-Post* in 1998 that they would intend to privatize some Crown corporations, and he would have privatized STC and SaskTel.

We have the former leader for the Sask Party saying in 1998, I definitely support the sale of STC and that he thinks there’s support to sell other Crowns.

And we also have in 2008 the former minister responsible for Crowns wrote in ISC’s annual report that his priority was “. . . to ensure that Saskatchewan’s Crown corporations remained publicly owned . . . This is a promise our Government made to the people of Saskatchewan, and it is a promise we will keep.”

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, it’s not a promise this government has kept. It’s a promise they have broken to the people of Saskatchewan. This bill, this idea was never mentioned during the election. It was never mentioned during the throne speech of last year. It’s obviously a broken promise. It’s a surprise to the people of Saskatchewan. The people did not vote for this privatization.

We know ISC is a highly profitable company, and by selling a majority of the company, the Sask Party’s giving away a majority of the profits — last year 17 million; this year 19 million. We’re just afraid that this is a government that’s out of money, and they’re looking for quick cash. And this is not the way to go.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I’m going to conclude my comments on this bill. We’ll certainly have many, many questions in committee. And so I would conclude my comments for now.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 95, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt

the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 96

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 96 — *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's my pleasure to rise today to speak to Bill 96, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*. It's the end of the adjourned debates portion of this session, and I'm certainly disappointed that it has to be on this topic, Mr. Speaker, because this is the last piece I guess that is needed to privatize Information Services Corporation.

And what this bill basically does, as I spoke earlier on Bill 95, it provided for amendments to I think I said 16 statutes that are in English, and this bill is to make consequential amendments from Bill 95 to three bills that are bilingual. So the Acts that are being amended here is *The Co-operatives Act*, and *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, and *The Vital Statistic Act, 2009*. And those are the changes that are being proposed in this bill.

Again it's the similar types of changes that we saw in Bill 95 for the English-only statutes, where we have some changes in terms of the registrar description, the fees and charges that the registrar can pay, the immunity clause, and the transitional clause. The only difference in these Acts is that they are bilingual Acts and which require the bill itself to be in both official languages. So that's basically what we see in that Act, and I would refer to my comments from the previous bill in terms of the substance of that.

Again I just wanted to leave this portion of the adjourned debates with a few thoughts about what happens to ISC and what's going to I guess be the net result for the people of Saskatchewan because what we see is millions and millions of dollars went into making this company what it is, and they are taxpayers' dollars in terms of the investment in the computing systems.

And I was part of a focus group in 2004, 2005 maybe, which was the online portion, online application for ISC for land transfers. There was a huge investment by the company just on that one small piece so that people could apply online and register their transactions online. The number of hours that went into that, the number of hours that went into converting all those titles from paper to electronic records and the big studio that was set up on the east side of the city, where hundreds of people were hired to take all the information from that paper and convert it into an electronic record, the investment for the geographic information system and the land registry — or sorry, the land surveys people — I mean the contribution that those people made and that the Government of Saskatchewan made to modernizing our land titles system is now going to be turned over to a private company, sort of.

We see that the Government of Saskatchewan still wants some of it and that the Government of Saskatchewan is also, through Bill 95 and 96, keeping a substantial number of strings attached to this new privatized corporation. So it's not really privatized because there's the golden share that the province is keeping, as well as the 40 per cent ownership that they could keep, which we don't know for sure if that's going to remain as well because there's flexibility within Bill 69 for those shares to be sold as well. So it's really a strange thing.

And if you recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the minister's justification for doing this was that ISC wasn't finding any customers and that somehow customers didn't like dealing with Crowns. And I just find that strange, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because we see other Crowns successfully finding customers internationally, like SaskTel International. We see other Crowns like SaskPower making deals with other states and provinces.

So although the minister's made the statement, I think it's very dubious and really one that has to be questioned. But of course he's going ahead stubbornly and insisting that for some reason ISC can't make sales because it's a Crown corporation. And somehow by converting a highly successful Crown corporation into a weird, privatized — partly privatized with lots of strings still attached to it — corporation that's a monopoly, that somehow those shares are going to be attractive to individual purchasers and that this is going to be a highly desirable company now, which will have clients lining up at the door. I think the minister is sadly mistaken.

And certainly we'll keep a very close eye on the future of the new privatized and, as I would say, the shadow of the former ISC. We will see, Mr. Speaker, whether or not these clients will line up, as the CEO [chief executive officer] of the company and the minister are indicating.

So I think on that note, it's kind of a sad day when we have to end the adjourned debates portion of our session talking about broken promises by this party, talking about surprises by the Sask Party that the actions of government are not what the people voted for. They're not what the people were told during the election. They're not what they were told in the Throne Speech. And we end up with a debate on it in the House at this point. So I think, Mr. Speaker, I am concluding my remarks now on Bill 96, and will leave it to the House Leader to wrap it up.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 96, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	3323
Broten	3323, 3324
D'Autremont	3323
Lawrence	3323
Marchuk	3323
Wyant.....	3323
Ross	3323
Huyghebaert.....	3323
Vermette	3323
Bjornerud	3323
Heppner	3324
Bradshaw	3324
Duncan	3324
Draude	3324
Chartier	3324
Ottenbreit	3324

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger.....	3325
Forbes	3325

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Boston Marathon Support Run

Wotherspoon	3325
-------------------	------

National Volunteer Week

Huyghebaert.....	3325
------------------	------

Online Tour of Cultural Landmark

Forbes	3326
--------------	------

University of Saskatchewan Appoints New Chancellor

Campeau.....	3326
--------------	------

Disability Program Marks Milestone

Wilson	3326
--------------	------

Increased Funding for Rural Physician Locum Pool

Bradshaw	3327
----------------	------

Leader's Views

Hickie	3327
--------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Care for Pediatric Patients

Broten	3327
Wall.....	3327
Duncan.....	3328

Social Services Expenditures in the North

Chartier	3328
Draude	3329

Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station

Sproule.....	3329
Cheveldayoff.....	3329

Immigration Issue

McCall	3330
Wyant.....	3330
Broten	3331
Wall.....	3331

Social Services Expenditures in the North

Broten	3331
Wall.....	3332

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on House Services

Sproule.....	3332
--------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 91 — <i>The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)</i>	
McCall	3332
Harrison (referral to committee)	3334
Bill No. 92 — <i>The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Forbes	3334
Harrison (referral to committee)	3339
Bill No. 93 — <i>The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013</i>	
<i>Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée <i>The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act</i></i>	
Forbes	3339
Harrison (referral to committee)	3340
Bill No. 94 — <i>The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013</i>	
Belanger	3340
Harrison (referral to committee)	3344
Bill No. 95 — <i>The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act</i>	
Sproule	3344
Harrison (referral to committee)	3353
Bill No. 96 — <i>The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013</i>	
<i>Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée <i>The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act</i></i>	
Sproule	3353
Harrison (referral to committee)	3354

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Jim Reiter

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

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General