



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

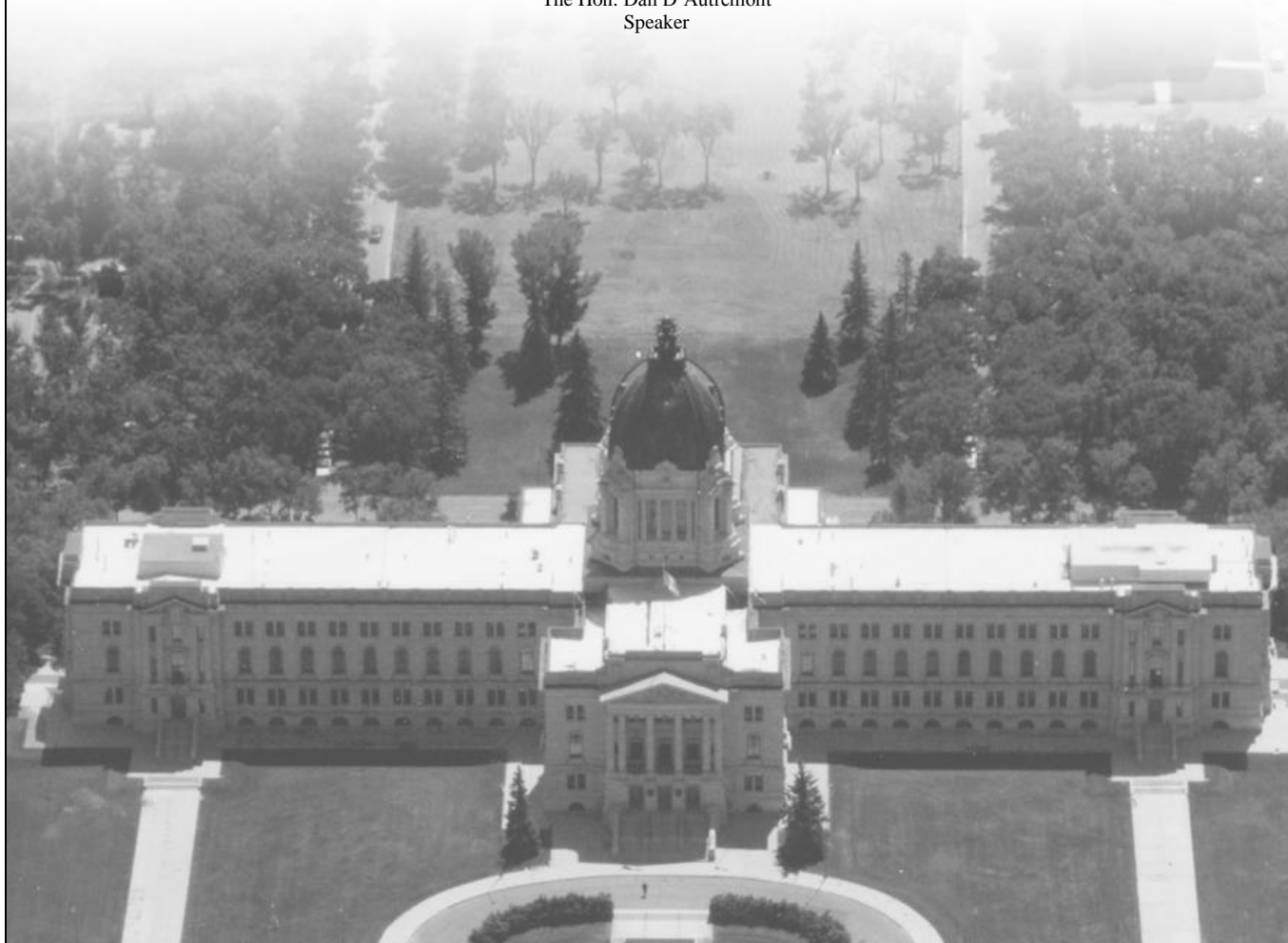
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The 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, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, 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:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, a couple of guests in your gallery. One would be new to the Assembly, one has been here many times before.

The executive director for the Regina Chamber of Commerce, John Hopkins, is joining us today, Mr. Speaker. And we want to thank him for his continued leadership in terms of the local economy, most recently during the P3 [public-private partnership] debate here in the city of Regina. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hopkins, along with the government, is always looking for opportunities to welcome new investment and investors to the province. And that's part of the reason why I think he is accompanied, at least I hope that's the reason he's accompanied today by Mr. Brock Lesnar, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lesnar is well-known to people across North America and the world as a multi-time WWE [World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.] champion, a UFC [Ultimate Fighting Championship] heavyweight champion, and for a time I think in the mid-2000s — the mid of this last decade I should say, '04-05 — a member of the Minnesota Vikings, Mr. Speaker. He has family members who are here in the province and he was at the state of the province address as well. Mr. Speaker, I remembered him walking across the room to meet me and, as I tweeted out, I was just glad he wasn't carrying a chair. But we're grateful for his interest in the province and for the work of John Hopkins and the Regina Chamber of Commerce.

I'd ask members to join me in welcoming these gentlemen to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to join with the Premier and welcome these guests to our Legislative Assembly. John Hopkins, always a pleasure to have you here. And as well, John Hopkins was recently recognized as CEO [chief executive officer] of the year for the chambers from across Canada. And of course he's always a strong voice to address labour force challenges across our province and a strong leader for the skills and trade centre here in Regina, among other economic matters.

It's also interesting to introduce Mr. Brock Lesnar to the Saskatchewan legislature, and certainly he's a phenomenal athlete and somebody for whom we've kept track of to some extent. And I understand as well that we share another interest and that's he's a fellow hunter I believe. And certainly I was out in the field a little bit this weekend for opening whitetail season here in our province. But it's my pleasure to welcome

Mr. Brock Lesnar to the Saskatchewan legislature. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce several guests who are among the biggest supporters of multiculturalism here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Seated in your gallery — it's a little difficult for me to see, so perhaps they could just give a wave — in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker, is Rhonda Rosenberg, the executive director of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. Seated with Rhonda are several exceptional volunteers who do great work with the multicultural community, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Julene Summerfield with the Regina Multicultural Council; I'm hoping Julene is here. Julene is accompanied by her husband, Everett Summerfield. Priya Bilkhu, also from the India Canada Association of Saskatchewan, Regina, Mr. Speaker.

And a young lady who I met on Saturday, Julianne Beaudin-Herney from the Sakewewak First Nations Artist Collective in Regina, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Beaudin-Herney won the award for multicultural youth leadership at the multicultural honours event this past Saturday. Mr. Speaker, these are exceptional volunteers. These exceptional volunteers were recognized for their contributions at a ceremony this past weekend at Government House hosted by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Speaker, their efforts and the efforts of many others who believe a multicultural province benefits us all deserve our thanks. Congratulations on the well-deserved recognition and thank you for all your hard work to help us build a flourishing multicultural province. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their contributions to the province, I ask that all members please join me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming this important delegation to the Assembly today, Rhonda Rosenberg and all of the volunteers who are participating with the multiculturalism council.

We as legislators often say that people in the province are the greatest strength. And we say it because it's absolutely true. And when we have representatives from different groups here in the legislature bringing in other concerns from Saskatchewan people to this Assembly, it's always a good thing.

So I want to thank all the individuals for the work that they have contributed over the years and thank them for the ongoing work they will do in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and

through you to all members of the House, I'd like to introduce two people that are seated in your gallery. They are in the back row. The younger looking one, I think he's done better at hair retention than his grandfather, is Troy Buechler. He is a grade 10 student at Warman High School. He aspires to become a lawyer or study political studies. I've cautioned him against both of those career choices. But in any event, Mr. Speaker, the unique thing I would offer about him that, in spite of his young age, his age has worked against him. He's one year too old to have been able to be a student at the Warman Middle Years School which opened last week.

He is joined today, Mr. Speaker, by his grandfather, Neil Buechler, a Saskatoon resident who is probably no stranger to most of the people here. Mr. Buechler is a retiree, having worked his working career with Marsh Canada an insurance company. He is a past board member of SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] and of Prairieland. He's been active in food bank and a number of other volunteer activities.

And, Mr. Speaker, he is down spending time with his grandson, as grandparents should do, but I suspect that he is available for other tasks of a volunteer nature. So I make that offer on his behalf to all of the members of the House and would ask that all members welcome them to their Assembly today.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the Minister of Education in welcoming Neil and Troy Buechler to their Legislative Assembly. I've known Mr. Buechler through his great work for the province of Saskatchewan through the board of SIAST a few moons ago, Mr. Speaker, but that work certainly continued on past my direct association with it and certainly a great example of the kind of contribution that Neil Buechler has made to this province. And again it's good to see him here with his grandson as well sizing up the great, great horizon of opportunities that are here in this province. So good to see Neil and Troy Buechler here today at their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce the board of directors for the Agri-Food Council to the Legislative Assembly. The council is the supervisory body for the province's market development agencies. The council works with these agencies to promote and grow the province's agriculture commodities sectors. And I'd ask if they wave as I introduce them.

Today we have with us Dr. Robert Tyler, board Chair. Dr. Tyler is a faculty member in the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, focusing on food processing. Board Vice-Chair Murray McGillivray: Murray and his wife Selena operate a cow-calf and yearling operation at Radville, third generation livestock producers who have been active in livestock and ag organizations for many years. Board member Hubert Esquirol: Hubert operates a grain forage and bison farm at Meota and has been involved in various industry

organizations. Board member Richard Lindsay: Richard is a third-generation farmer with his family, operates a grain farm at Arborfield. Board member Maurice Berry: Maurice and his family operate a grain, pulse, and oilseed farm at Carievale.

I would like to thank the Agri-Food Council board for their commitment and contributions to Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And on behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to rise and welcome the members of the board to this Legislative Assembly and want to offer our thanks for the work that you do to promote agriculture in Saskatchewan and develop our markets elsewhere.

And we know that operating a family farm and volunteering your time in positions like this is incredibly important to the agriculture industry. And so on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and producers in Saskatchewan, I would just like to extend a warm welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to just mention specifically some attention to Dr. Bob Tyler. He is a campus leader and recognized across the country for his work in food security. Essentially Bob was doing food security issues long before the world was turning its attention to these issues. He offers tremendous strength, not simply in his research but in his connection to industry, which is invaluable. And so I'd ask all members to help just offer a little bit of an extra introduction to Dr. Bob Tyler and special thanks to his work on food security. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I was remiss earlier on not to introduce some others that have joined us in your gallery as well. My cousins in fact, Derek and Candace Paton have joined us in the gallery. They're from Medicine Hat, Alberta, for now, Mr. Speaker. And I'm looking forward to having a chat with them a little bit later on this afternoon. But I would wonder . . . I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to this Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take the opportunity to join with the Minister of Agriculture and the member from Nutana in welcoming the Agri-Food Council members, but particularly Mr. Murray McGillivray from the Radville district, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I first met Murray about 10 years ago and got to know him a little bit better, quite a bit better, a few years after that, Mr. Speaker. And we just want to put on the record how much I'm indebted to Murray for his guidance and

wisdom. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Murray McGillivray to his Legislative Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for support of anti-bullying initiatives. And we know that bullying causes serious harm, and the consequences of bullying are devastating, including depression, self-harm, addictions, and suicide, and that bullying is a human rights issue, one of safety and inclusion. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to take immediate and meaningful action to protect Saskatchewan's children from bullying because the lives of young people are at stake and this government must do more to protect our youth.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon and Yorkton. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School.

The petitioners point out that the gym at Sacred Heart Community School in north central Regina is now quite literally falling apart and has been closed indefinitely and is no longer safe for students or staff. There's an interim solution, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the old sanctuary of Sacred Heart that has been refurbished as a temporary gymnasium, but these petitioners are calling out for a permanent solution.

They also point out that enrolment at Sacred Heart has increased by 100 students over the past four years and that attendance and learning outcomes are steadily improving. They point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in north central Regina, with 450 students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis. And they point out, Mr. Speaker, that as a matter of basic fairness and common sense that Sacred Heart Community School needs a gym. In the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause this government to immediately replace the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Saskatoon, Carievale, and Kronau. I so present.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

### Roughriders Vie for Grey Cup

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If one ventured out last evening anywhere in Saskatchewan, they likely would have found the streets and stores deserted. Of course it's because Rider nation was watching our Roughriders trounce the Stampeders 35 to 13 in the western division finals in Calgary, just in case you hadn't heard yet.

The green and white truly dominated the game yesterday to bring home the win at McMahon Stadium, evidenced of course by the score, but by the 31 first downs to the Stamps' 10, over 40 minutes time of possession on the Riders' side. And of course the Stampeders helped out the cause by committing seven turnovers.

The Riders will now be playing on home turf against the Hamilton Ticats in the 101st Grey Cup. I know this week's lead-up festivities will put all other Grey Cup parties to shame. As Roughrider CEO, Jim Hopson, put it:

We knew it was going to be a great Grey Cup regardless of who was in because our fans would come out and make it a fun week. This just puts it over the top. It will be special and there won't be a person in the province that won't be connected to this.

Mr. Speaker, I know this is a big deal for the organization, the players, the coaches. But, Mr. Speaker, I can't think of a fan base anywhere in sports that deserves this more than the Rider nation, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in wishing the Riders good luck on Sunday. We've known for a while we're going to host the cup. Now we look forward to the Riders hoisting the cup this Sunday right here at home at Mosaic Stadium. Go Riders.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, we were all watching yesterday as our Riders advanced to the Grey Cup with a huge 35-13 win over the Calgary Stampeders in the west division final. Hamilton punched its ticket with a win earlier in the day. Mr. Speaker, this sets the table for the 101st Grey Cup to be a truly classic battle here in Saskatchewan — home field advantage, the last Grey Cup to be played on Taylor Field at Mosaic Stadium, some familiar faces with the Ticats, a rematch of '89 cup opponents. Yes, this is indeed a special week and game for Rider nation.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to kick off the celebration with the opening ceremonies in the Mosaic Festival Village as we officially commence our 101st Grey Cup Festival Week. This free event welcomes all ages and will feature sport, culture, dance, and entertainment. We are all looking forward to participating in the week's events and to know the pride of Rider nation will be on full display.

Mr. Speaker, the 101st Grey Cup Festival would not be possible without the support and passion of all of those festival partners and our team. I'd ask all members to join with me to thank and

recognize the festival committee and volunteers, our players, coaches, president, board of governors, and staff, and of course, every last fan for their effort in making this celebration in Rider nation one we won't soon forget.

And I know we're all big Rider fans, but please, Mr. Premier, keep your banjo in its bag.

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

### Bullying Awareness Week

**Ms. Campeau:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bullying Awareness Week. As we know, bullying is a societal issue that has tremendously harmful effects on our youth.

Last week, I presented my report entitled *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying*. And over the consultation process, over 1,000 Saskatchewan residents took the time to share their stories, experiences, and truths about how bullying is impacting the lives of our children and youth. And, Mr. Speaker, during the consultations, we heard over and over again that it takes a community to raise a child.

Mr. Speaker, students need the support of schools and communities to create spaces where they feel respected and accepted so they can achieve to the best of their ability. We've listened to students and are working to find ways we can support them and develop real and relevant solutions.

Mr. Speaker, 2013 marks the 11th year of Bullying Awareness Week. This week is important because it recognizes that we all have a role to play in preventing bullying and it will take everyone — students, teachers, parents, schools division administrators, police, community organizations, and government — to find solutions to prevent bullying and cyberbullying so that our youth can learn in a safe environment. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all members to join with me in recognizing Bullying Awareness Week.

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

### Poetry Slam Team Places Third

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to recognize Brendan Flaherty, a Saskatoon Nutana resident and one of the organizers of Tonight It's Poetry, a weekly poetry slam held at The Basement in Saskatoon.

Founded in April 2008, Tonight It's Poetry has become a premiere performance destination for both Saskatchewan poets and those touring through the Prairies. It aims to create cohesion among emerging poets living in Saskatoon in a site that celebrates poetic and cultural diversity.

I would like to congratulate Brendan and other members of Saskatoon's poetry slam team from Tonight It's Poetry for its third-place finish at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word held in Montreal November 4th to 9th. This was the national festival's 10th year and included over 40 events. Over 150

poets graced the Montreal stages and showcases, workshops and panels.

This year's team, representing poets from Tonight It's Poetry, was made up of Danielle Altrogge, Brent Chappell, Ahmad Majid, Francie Miller, and Brendan Flaherty. The team was coached and mentored by Charles Hamilton and Isaac Bond.

I'd also like to congratulate Brendan on his recent *Planet S* award for the best Saskatoon poet. Runners-up were fellow Tonight It's Poetry organizer Charles Hamilton and poet and performance artist Ryan Bradshaw.

I ask members of this Assembly to congratulate Brendan Flaherty and the members of Saskatoon's poetry slam team for their accomplishments and leadership in maintaining Saskatoon's vibrant arts and culture scene. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

### Athlete Makes the Big League

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only has this been a great year for the Saskatchewan economy and a great year for our population growth, which has now eclipsed 1.1 million people, but it has also been a great year for our young athletes on the international stage.

Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure of speaking at the welcome home banquet for Battlefords resident Andrew Albers who last August fulfilled his dream of pitching in the big leagues. Mr. Speaker, Andrew is only the eighth player from Saskatchewan to make it to the bigs and the first in nearly a quarter century. Needless to say, everyone in The Battlefords, and indeed everyone in Saskatchewan, is very proud of this young man.

Mr. Speaker, testimonials were given by several former teammates, former coaches, and former teachers, and the common thread in each of their toasts was Andrew's tremendous work ethic, his perseverance, and his complete devotion to the game.

From the time he was 10 years old, he was not only the best player on the team, but he was also the hardest working player, both at practice and in the game. Mr. Speaker, this perseverance paid off for Andrew as he faced setbacks with Tommy John surgery and subsequent rehab. He then had to become a road warrior, making the 30-hour drive to Florida for just a major league tryout. Mr. Speaker, what impressed me about this young athlete was his modesty, his faith, his great love and appreciation for his family and his community, and just his warm and caring attitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Andrew Albers on his accomplishments and thank him for being such a great role model and ambassador for our province, and wish him all the best as his pro career unfolds and then skyrockets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Louis Riel Day Features Bell of Batoche

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise in the House today to recognize that the famous bell of Batoche was the guest of honour at the Louis Riel Day in Saskatoon this past Saturday. Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon's Métis community celebrated with city leaders at a ceremony at Friendship Park and then at the Central Urban Métis Federation Centre with fiddle music, home-cooked food, and a traditional lunch.

Louis Riel Day celebrations were held across the country, but Saskatoon's ceremony with the bell was extra special because the artefact is a symbol of hope and inspiration for the Métis community. Throughout the day, dozens of people flowed in and out for a chance to get up close and personal with the historic relic. The famous bell of Batoche was taken by soldiers during the North-West Resistance in 1885 and kept in Millbrook, Ontario until 1991 when it disappeared. The whereabouts of the bell remained a mystery until it was presented to the bishop of the diocese of Prince Albert during a historic mass this past July.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Louis Riel Day and Saturday's festivities in Saskatoon with the bell of Batoche. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, November 16th to 24th marks the 39th annual Saskatchewan Multicultural Week. This is a time to celebrate the rich and growing cultural diversity of the people of this province. To mark this anniversary, the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan is highlighting our provincial motto "from many peoples, strength" to emphasize that multiculturalism enriches Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our province is growing and people from all over the world are coming here. Between 2007 and 2012, nearly 43,000 people from 178 different countries decided to call Saskatchewan home. This represents a significant portion of our historic population increase to 1.1 million people.

Mr. Speaker, when these people come, they bring with them their unique cultures and traditions. They also bring new ways of thinking, a determination to succeed, and a sense of the possibilities Saskatchewan has to offer. They contribute to our growing economy and they help strengthen our ties to nations all over the world. This creates trade opportunities and raises Saskatchewan's profile on the world stage, all contributing to our admired quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask everyone to join me in celebrating Saskatchewan Multicultural Week 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Access to Emergency Rooms in Regina

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned late last week that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will likely be forced to reduce emergency room hours here in Regina because there are apparently too many patients and not enough doctors. And what Regina residents, Mr. Speaker — and really people across the province — cannot understand is how it is that an ER [emergency room] here in our capital city has to have its hours scaled back at a time when our province's economy is strong. To the Premier: what is his answer to this question?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. This is a very important issue for our province and significantly here in this particular health region in our capital city. It's worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that there is a shortage of ER docs right across North America, so to single out this city or this province as the only place where this is happening I don't think would be fair, Mr. Speaker.

That notwithstanding, the issue is very important, Mr. Speaker. There are currently negotiations under way, so we won't get into the details that go to some recruitment issues and certainly retention issues, Mr. Speaker. Since coming to power we've worked hard to deliver on our promise to actually have more doctors practising in Saskatchewan than was the case when we took over.

And, Mr. Speaker, we know now there are 300 more doctors practising in the province today. Part of that is because of deliberate decisions we've taken in terms of increasing training in-province. Part of it's because we've expanded the number of countries from which we can accept foreign-trained doctors, Mr. Speaker, as well as aggressive recruitment and retention. We're now bringing that innovative approach to bear on this particular issue, which is important, Mr. Speaker, and I know the Minister of Health and the health region is making this a top priority.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, Regina's two ERs should have 30 full-time resuscitation-capable physicians on the roster. Yet there are just 20 ER docs available in our capital city.

And, Mr. Speaker, these 20 physicians are going above and beyond in filling the shortfall that we are experiencing here in our capital city. In fact the VP [vice-president] of the health region has this to say, "It's been a really big stress on them." "They've been really supportive of the situations that we have, but we know they can't hold out forever."

Mr. Speaker, ER docs in Regina are doing their part but this government isn't doing its part. My question to the Premier: how did the government allow this situation to reach a crisis point where ER hours in our capital city are likely being scaled back?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Leader of the

Opposition to explain what he means by the government's not doing its part.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, when Regina patients are told that they should not be going to the ER, they should instead be going to a family physician, Mr. Speaker, this government is not doing its part because people do not have access to the services that they expect, especially when the economy is doing well.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is telling people to visit their family physicians instead of going to the ER, Mr. Speaker. But as Naomi Kral wrote in a letter to the paper, that's challenging. Naomi's letter said, "As a volunteer immigrant tutor for the public library, I tried to help my student find a doctor for her family. Boy, did I get my eyes opened!" Naomi found that there are only 12 clinics in Regina, Mr. Speaker, that are actually accepting new patients.

So ERs are cutting back on hours, Mr. Speaker, because of a shortage of doctors. Patients are told to visit their family doctor, Mr. Speaker, but patients can't find a family doctor because of the same doctor shortage. My question to the Premier: what's the government doing to address this crisis?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition was unable to answer my question because he simply doesn't have an answer himself for it. The facts of the matter are this, Mr. Speaker: while this remains a very serious issue, the facts of the matter is that the ER docs in this particular city are funded to the tune of 26 positions; 26 positions are fully funded today. There are only 20 doctors practising, Mr. Speaker, and it speaks to a shortage that's not just in effect here in Regina, but an ER doctor shortage that you could really see right across Canada and all over North America, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

Again we ask the Leader of the Opposition what specifically is the government not doing, knowing that we've doubled the number of residency positions, knowing that we've doubled the number of training seats since taking office, knowing that we've expanded the number of countries from which we'll accept foreign-trained doctors, Mr. Speaker, that we are investing resources in recruitment and retention.

And with respect to ER docs in particular, we're going to be at that table with innovative ways, we think, that will help deal with this situation in the long term. In the short term there are issues — there's no question about it — that have been experienced here and again, as I've said, right across North America. But the fact of the matter is this. There are 26 fully funded positions, unfortunately only 20 doctors practising. And for the member to discount the fact that there are 12 clinics that are welcoming new patients today, I think does a disservice to what the health region's trying to do.

Fifteen to 20 per cent of the cases that present themselves in ER, according to that same doctor, could be dealt with at a

walk-in clinic. Mr. Speaker, there's space available there. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will join with us in encouraging people to make full use of those walk-in clinics.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a government that used to say, ready for growth. But what we're hearing today is that they're simply ready for excuses.

It's under their watch, Mr. Speaker, that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is likely scaling back the hours of the ER. As it is reported, Mr. Speaker, there ought to be about 30 ER physicians in Regina. There are only 20. The government is not doing its part in order to ensure that there are enough ER physicians to meet the needs of patients here in Regina.

When patients are told that they shouldn't go to an ER, Mr. Speaker, that is concerning, especially when the economy is strong. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: how many more ERs will see their hours and services cut back before this government actually addresses the problem?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that the Meadow Clinic, just across the street from the Pasqua, received provincial funding so we can in part deal with this situation. Again it's a very important message from this legislature, beyond the politics we get from the Leader of the Opposition, is to encourage people who are seeking ER care to, if they can, use the health line, and then to determine whether or not they can be dealt with at a walk-in clinic. Again we have the health region estimating that 15 to 20 per cent of ER cases can be dealt with at a walk-in clinic.

He says, what is the government doing to ensure that we mitigate against this problem? Mr. Speaker, I'll tell him. We will, Mr. Speaker, continue to have more doctors practising here than ever was the case under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. We have 1,000 more nurses available here than we did under the NDP, Mr. Speaker. We'll expand the number of countries from which we'd accept doctors, unlike what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker.

Here's what we won't do. The NDP from '01 to '06, 1,160 fewer health care workers under their regime, 450 fewer RNs [registered nurse] from '01 to '06, 173 less doctors practising during their last five years, 155 less pharmacists, and 95 fewer physios, Mr. Speaker. We'll take no lessons from the NDP on this matter, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we see that the Premier came ready for excuses today. My question to the Premier: if everything is as wonderful as the Premier just stated in that response, Mr. Speaker, why is it that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will likely be scaling back hours for the ERs here in Regina? Why is that?

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



**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, as is usually the case, the Leader of the Opposition did not come to question period with any answers for his own part. Mr. Speaker, again, I would state for the record again, and to my hon. friend, there are 26 fully funded positions today in terms of ER docs in Regina. The challenge here is a North America-wide challenge. It's a national challenge in terms of the number of ER docs that are available, frankly.

Mr. Speaker, what we need to do for our part as government, working with the health care region, is make sure that we have the proper negotiations, the proper deal in place. We're going to work diligently at that. We need to make sure we've funded the proper complement of positions. We've done that. Unfortunately there's a shortage. We need to make sure we're looking beyond the countries that the NDP looked at when they were in office to determine whether or not we can have more foreign-trained doctors come. We're doing that. We need to continue to invest in training seats to train people right here in the province, not just for the medical school but also for residency positions, Mr. Speaker. And we're doing that. Mr. Speaker, those are a series of very specific actions that are being taken on this side of the aisle to deal with a national issue.

Mr. Speaker, what solutions does that member come with to this Assembly, from a party that cut doctors, that cut nurses, and that closed 52 hospitals, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, the Premier comes ready for excuses. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, under this government's watch, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is looking at scaling back the hours in the emergency rooms in our capital city. And this is compounded, Mr. Speaker, by the many scale-backs we've seen in rural locations under this government's watch, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about being a North American problem. Well, Mr. Speaker, I thought that Saskatchewan can lead on these issues. I thought we could be at the top, Mr. Speaker. And now the Premier is using this as an excuse, Mr. Speaker. Why can't we be creating a culture here in Saskatchewan that attracts enough emergency room physicians here to serve the patients' needs?

Again, my question to the Premier: if everything is as wonderful as he claims it is in his response, why is the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region looking at scaling back the hours of the ERs?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question because we just had the Speech from the Throne debate in this Assembly and what was pretty clear from that speech is that this province is determined to lead with respect to the issue of ER, with the overuse of ER, with ER capacity issues that we experience here in Regina and across the province. That's why we're expanding Home First, Mr. Speaker. That is also why we've introduced hot-spotting in the Speech from the Throne. I think members were in favour of

that. I think that member that just raised the question, that said, why aren't you doing something about it, spoke in favour of hot-spotting. I think he did, Mr. Speaker.

So between the very specific initiatives to deal with the issue now, between those, between those real measures and the fact that this government has spent six years fixing the mess left by that member and his party that cut doctors, cut nurses, and closed hospitals, between those two things, I'm hoping in the next question the Leader of the Opposition will stand up and say, well that's actually pretty good, Mr. Speaker.

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

### School Infrastructure

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, existing education infrastructure in our province requires a lot of attention. There's demand for new schools and huge need for renovations and repairs to existing schools. But the government isn't holding up its end of the deal. They have no plan or commitment to repair the schools we need.

In a report published by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, school boards said major changes are needed to the way government funds infrastructure renewal. One school board in the report said, "The current level of funding is not sufficient, contributing to an infrastructure deficit."

To the minister: why does that government not have a long-term plan to address the infrastructure deficit in our schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I think we've got a relatively good answer for the question. During our time in office, we've built 20 brand new schools, 23 major renovations and additions, 900 smaller capital projects. Over 65 per cent of all schools have seen upgrades and improvements. And, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, we've announced nine new joint-use schools which is the equivalent of 18 separate schools. Mr. Speaker, what more could the members want than that for a long-term plan? We are doing it and doing it now, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, that answer entirely dismisses the reality of school boards across Saskatchewan. According to the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], 75 per cent of roofing systems in our province's schools will fail in just the next five years. Let me repeat that because it's astonishing. Three-quarters of the schools' roofs will fail in the next five years. Currently that government has no plan on this front. To the Education minister: what is this government's plan to address this urgent need?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the members

opposite that by announcing the joint-use schools, it has had the effect of catapulting Sacred Heart School to the top of the capital priority list. Mr. Speaker, that's something that is important for all of us. They're using a temporary facility. We very much want to see that rectified.

Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of the issues that exist in our province. We inherited a \$1.2 billion deficit in capital in our school system when we took government. In our first six years in government, we did more than the opposition did in 16 years. We have increased infrastructure spending, Mr. Speaker, by some 264 per cent since we've been in government.

Mr. Speaker, some of the very first money that we allocated was towards completing projects. Mr. Speaker, over 70 per cent of the schools in our province are at least 40 years old. We're making up for years and years of neglect but one of the best ways we can do that is by building new schools, and we're doing it.

**The Speaker:** — Before we proceed, we're getting a little bit of argy-bargy here on either side. And just tone it down please, a little. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — For that minister to seriously suggest that somehow if the public wants schools repaired that they're going to have to accept private schools as the only option is nonsense and an entire false choice to the people of this province.

Many school divisions have major concerns about this government's approach to existing education infrastructure. The South East Cornerstone Public School Division's director of education says, "As we learn more about the capital funding model, I get quite concerned as to how small urban and rural boards are going to get a piece of the construction, maintenance pie." He also says, "So far we haven't seen a lot of transparency in regards to how the funding is calculated so we just keep on asking."

To the Education minister: when will this government bring forward a transparent, long-term capital asset plan for our students?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of transparency and openness when we had the media at a school adjacent to the Leader of the Opposition's riding so that we could announce a new joint-use school facility in that area. Mr. Speaker, that was a lot of openness and accountability.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the members opposite that there is a lot of public support and a lot of school board support. And I want to read a little bit about that, Mr. Speaker, regarding the announcement. "To say that I am pleased to be here today for this announcement would be a serious, serious understatement" — Saskatoon Public School Board Chair, Ray Morrison. Vicky Bonnell, Chair, Regina Catholic, "As long as we have schools to accommodate our students' needs, we're happy." Mr. Speaker, Larry Pavloff, board Chair, Prairie Spirit School Division in his scrum said, "We are very happy to hear this announcement."

Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased with where we're going on the new schools. Better than the 176 that the members over there closed.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor weighed in on this in her most recent report. The auditor found that "The Ministry of Education did not have effective capital asset planning processes for facilities to house and support educational programs and instructional services for students in school divisions."

And with three-quarters of the schools' roofs failing over the next five years and a whole range of other urgent repairs needed, this government has to stop delaying meaningful action. The government needs to establish an effective capital asset plan and repair schools in need. To the Education minister: when will this government do just that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we go through a budget cycle every year. The members opposite should stay tuned to see with that. They'll know that because of the P3 announcement that was made earlier, that a lot of the things that were further down the list all of a sudden will magically have risen to the top. And I ask the members opposite just to wait and see. This is far better than when they were in government when we inherited a \$1.2 billion deficit.

The school roofs that they're talking about failing, the failure means that they're likely to leak. We do not want to see that happen either, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you because of the announcements that we've made, there's every likelihood that we'll be able to address some of those things in the next budget. And I would urge those members to wait for that and see where things go. And I'd also like to urge them to come out when we announce joint-use facilities because, Mr. Speaker, their constituents will be happy with that as well.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — The minister was quoting some people here today. We'll also quote some people that's representing all the school divisions in the province, that being Janet Foord, the president of the SSBA. And Janet Foord says:

We can't continue to react to growth pressures in the province. We must become more proactive by developing a long-term plan to ensure students have safe, healthy, and vibrant learning communities now and into the future.

We don't see any plan from this government. The reason the SSBA is issuing that statement is there's no plan and no commitment from that government. When individual school boards, when the Provincial Auditor, when teachers and students and families say that education in the province is being neglected, that government can't simply stubbornly dismiss those concerns.

To the Education minister: when will this government bring forward a long-term capital asset plan for education that builds and repairs the schools this province needs and that students deserve?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd just ask the member to read the newspaper and keep an eye on the TV. It's been an ongoing thing for quite a while. We have built, since we formed government, 20 new schools. We've announced nine new joint school facilities. The members opposite closed 176 schools. Mr. Speaker, since we formed government, we have spent \$600 million in education capital, a 264 per cent increase over the NDP. Mr. Speaker, over 65 per cent of the schools have seen a major upgrade since 2007, Mr. Speaker.

We're not going to be taking any lessons from the members opposite. We're going to be going forward and we're going to be doing what the citizens and students of our province need. We're building new schools. We're repairing new schools. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll take no lessons from the members over there.

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

#### Combatting Bullying and Provision of Information

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday the government released its anti-bullying report, and after reading it, we welcome some progress in certain areas. Six months ago the Premier had a difficult time even saying the word gay. And now we have the government release a report that includes some discussion about gay-straight alliances. So that's a good thing.

But the general consensus on this report, it's far too light on details and far too light on action. To the Education minister: why are there so few immediate steps being taken by this government to combat bullying and cyberbullying?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I take the issue of bullying very seriously on this side of the House, both cyberbullying, its impact on our students, and on the facilitation of GSAs [gay-straight alliance] right across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and we hope the NDP do as well.

I'm in receipt of this letter that I think was sent to you, Mr. Speaker, where the NDP are raising a point of privilege on this particular issue. Mr. Speaker, the facts around this case are interesting. They're saying that because the report was released at a school in Regina, that the privilege of members opposite have been violated in terms of accessing the information even though the critic who was just on his feet knows full well that the minister phoned him the night before, offered him a private briefing, offered him a copy of the document, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition will clarify what kind of an outfit are they running over there, Mr. Speaker, when that

offer was made to NDP members on the opposite side and then the next day, the next business day of the House, to play politics, they raise a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, cyberbullying is a major problem in our province, and yet this government simply says it will assess the implications of upcoming federal cyberbullying legislation. Other provinces have taken this issue seriously and have brought in their own cyberbullying legislation. When we raised this issue last November, the former minister of Education said he'd been monitoring other jurisdictions and released public reports on what they found. Mr. Speaker, it's been a full year and yet this government has taken so little action.

To the minister: why, over a year later, has this government done so little to actually address bullying and cyberbullying in this legislature? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, cyberbullying is something that we should take seriously, more seriously than other types of bullying because it's particularly insidious. It's a type of thing that follows a student home. A student can be cyberbullied while in their bedroom, while in what should be the comfort and security of their own home.

Mr. Speaker, our Minister of Justice has met with his federal counterpart and counterparts from other parts of the country, and we are working with them towards establishing appropriate federal legislation. Mr. Speaker, this is the type of things that falls within the federal criminal purview, and we look forward to seeing how it fits with the processes and procedures that we're following in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise that there are steps that we are taking that will dovetail well with that, and we look forward to working with the federal government to have something that's appropriate and meets the needs of our students well.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government's report acknowledges that over half the young people that identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual seriously consider suicide. Around 37 per cent of young people that identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual have actually attempted suicide.

And while we welcome the fact that this government finally recognizes the value of gay-straight alliances — or at least the member from Saskatoon Fairview does — we had certainly hoped to see concrete help for establishing GSAs in schools. To the Education minister: what is the government planning to do to actually implement GSAs in our schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to ensure that the availability of gay-straight alliances are

available in all schools in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and, you know, we're confident that that's the case.

Mr. Speaker, I misspoke earlier on with respect to my comments on the NDP frankly playing some political games on this very important issue on the question of privilege. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is it wasn't a phone call but rather there was a face-to-face discussion between the Minister of Education and the critic who just spoke on Wednesday of last week, where there was an offer for a full disclosure of what was in the plan, and I think even a meeting with officials so that he and therefore all of his colleagues would have access to it. Mr. Speaker, he knew that, and still this day the Leader of the Opposition authorizes a motion of privilege to play games with the issue, to say, well members over there didn't have information before it hit the public and before it was raised at Arcola School, Mr. Speaker.

What is going on over there? Who is providing leadership? Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue for the province. What we don't need is NDP political games, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that when we're talking about something as serious as gay-straight alliances, talking about suicides of youth, Mr. Speaker, attempted suicides, that we're entering into a discussion here about what House leaders sort out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, all members of the Assembly have the right to have information as it is shared so that everyone can do their jobs, Mr. Speaker. House leaders will carry on this discussion through the points of privilege, Mr. Speaker, but my point is, these are serious matters, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we're asking the serious questions on behalf of youth.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, these are very serious issues. And what we do not need is the NDP opposition playing games with motions in the Assembly. The Leader of the Opposition's right, Mr. Speaker. In fact the Minister of Education offered all of the specifics to the critic on Wednesday before. The Leader of the Opposition's relatively new as a leader in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, someday I think he'll learn that at some point in the life of this job — and I have certainly done it — you just have to stand up and apologize, apologize that these were the wrong tactics, apologize that they minimized the important issue of bullying in the province of Saskatchewan.

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Provision of Information

**The Speaker:** — At 10:55 a.m. today, in accordance with rule 12(1), the Opposition House Leader gave notice that he proposed to raise a question of privilege. I thank the member for providing notice pursuant to the new privilege rules.

In his case, the Opposition House Leader stated that at approximately 8 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, November the 14th, 2013, Executive Council staff provided members of

the media with embargoed copies of *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying* prepared by the member for Saskatoon Eastview and Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education responsible for the anti-bullying initiative. However the opposition was not provided a copy of the report until the press conference held at Arcola Community School on the afternoon of Thursday, November the 14th, 2013. The decision not to also provide a copy of the report to the opposition, in the opinion of the Opposition House Leader, constitutes a breach of members' parliamentary privilege.

The basis of the member's case are rulings by Speaker Kowalsky in Saskatchewan on April the 11th, 2005, and Speaker Milliken of the House of Commons made March 19th, 2001. Speaker Milliken found that the denial of members or their staff to an embargoed technical briefing for media on a bill constituted a prima facie contempt of parliament. The ruling on October the 11th, 2005 by Speaker Kowalsky found that previous Speakers had consistently ruled that the denial of information members need to do their work, while at the same time providing such information to the media, was not an acceptable practice.

In Saskatchewan, Speakers have admonished the government for releasing bills to the public before their introduction to the Assembly, although infractions were not considered a breach of privilege. In Speaker Kowalsky's ruling, he stated that whether it is a bill or a report, the principles remain the same. That principle is that nothing should be done that disadvantages or impedes members from carrying out their parliamentary functions. Speaker Kowalsky's ruling was supported by Speaker Milliken who ruled on March 19th, 2011 that the practice of media lock-ups and embargoed technical briefings, whether they be on bills, budgets, or auditor general reports, are successful and useful when members and their staff are given access.

Given the ruling by Speaker Kowalsky in this House and Speaker Milliken's ruling in the House of Commons, I find that when embargoed papers are provided to the media in advance of release to the public, these documents must be provided on the same embargoed basis to the opposition. The advanced release of the embargoed papers must occur so that members have the same opportunity to better understand and respond to the issues.

The Opposition House Leader has made a sufficient case for me to find a prima facie case of breach of privilege. Before recognizing the Opposition House Leader, I would also like to draw your attention to the new rules relating to privilege. First I will recognize the Opposition House Leader and invite him to outline his case and, at the end of his remarks, move his motion.

I would also like to note that pursuant to rule 12(6), there is now time limits on debate on the motion of privilege:

The mover of the motion shall speak for not more than one hour, and is permitted 15 minutes to close debate; and

No other Member shall speak for more than 45 minutes.

I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order.

**The Speaker:** — What is the Government House Leader's point of order?

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe in past practice the government has the opportunity to put on the record their own position prior to the Speaker making a finding on an issue of such gravity.

I haven't even had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to put the government's arguments on the record as to why this shouldn't be a *prima facie* case. I can't think of any, any situation in the past where a government or opposition have not had an opportunity to make their submissions to the Speaker prior to him making a decision. This would be akin to in a court of law only having one side of the argument put onto the table and the judge rendering a decision without the defence being able to put their case forward.

I think it's completely inappropriate, frankly, Mr. Speaker. And I think this is something that's very much unprecedented.

**The Speaker:** — Under rule 12(4) of the new rules that were just adopted by this House:

12(4) The Speaker shall determine if a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established but, without unreasonable delay, may defer the decision to another sitting day. The Speaker shall advise the Assembly thereof by making a statement at the conclusion of Routine Proceedings and before Orders of the Day.

12(5) When a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established, the Member who raised the case shall move the question of privilege motion, and it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order.

**The Speaker:** — What's the Government House Leader's point of order?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, when you read those rules — and I'm very familiar with them; I, with the Opposition House Leader, helped draft them — those rules don't preclude the Speaker recognizing the Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader or any other member prior to rendering a decision on whether it's a *prima facie* case.

The fact that Mr. Speaker has seen fit to do so I think is entirely inappropriate. And like I said, akin in a court of law to having one side of the argument laid on the table with the defence having no opportunity to put forward a case. This is contrary to the entire traditions of our system, of our parliament, of our legislature. It flies in the face of centuries of tradition, Mr. Speaker, and I can't see how it would have been inappropriate for me or my colleague opposite to put their arguments on the table as to why this is a *prima facie* case in the House.

You rendered a decision on the basis of a letter which was

never tabled in this Assembly, submitted to you by the opposition, with me having seen it about an hour beforehand and having prepared arguments to put on the table as to refute the arguments put forward. I think this is entirely inappropriate and contrary to the entire traditions of this Assembly.

[14:30]

**The Speaker:** — The Opposition House Leader on the point of order. The debate which will take place is the government's opportunity to answer the charge by the opposition. That's the way the rules are laid out. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — What is the Government House Leader's point of order?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I ask for leave of the Assembly to put on the table the government's arguments as to why this is not a *prima facie* case, and for the Speaker to then re-examine his decision on the basis of having both sides before him prior to making a determination.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to present a case against the proposition by the Opposition House Leader of a motion of privilege. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank my colleagues opposite as well for allowing me to put forward these submissions, and hopefully for the Speaker to re-examine his decision in light of the submissions that we're making. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that if you review the case you will find that members' privilege has not been breached and a *prima facie* case does not exist.

*Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying* was a report from the Legislative Secretary making recommendations to the Minister of Education regarding an anti-bullying plan. Mr. Speaker, the transmittal letter on page 3 of *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying* clearly states that this report was for the minister's consideration. To quote from the letter, and I quote:

To: Hon. Don Morgan, Q.C.  
Minister of Education

From Jennifer Campeau, MLA  
Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education,  
Responsible for the Anti-Bullying Initiative

The letter of transmittal concludes by saying, "I humbly submit our findings and our recommendations to you," meaning the minister.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that members' privilege does not extend

outside of the Assembly to reports of executive government or to ministerial advice. This has been the understanding for centuries in Westminster parliaments. This report is clearly property of the member for Saskatoon Fairview which was provided to the Minister of Education. The fact that these two members decided to share the report with media is irrelevant in this case because it was not a report to the Assembly.

In the Opposition House Leader's notice of this question of privilege, he references a ruling from March 19th, 2001. This case references a technical briefing on legislation that was to be tabled in the House of Commons. I would like to quote from Speaker Milliken's statement on the March 19, 2001 case that the member opposite references: "However, with respect to material to be placed before parliament, the House must take precedence." I stress his words: "to be placed before parliament."

Mr. Speaker, this item has not and will not appear on the Orders of the Day or the agenda of this legislature. This is not a report to be placed before the legislature. By raising this point of privilege, the member opposite is attempting to extend members' privileges outside of this Assembly into the realm of executive government. Mr. Speaker, this is not how our system works.

Further than that, Mr. Speaker, as the Premier referenced, I'm told that the member from Saskatoon Centre was verbally offered a briefing on the material by the Minister of Education on Wednesday, November the 13th and that he declined. What was the minister to do, Mr. Speaker? Was he to hand him, make him take the report? I just don't see how that could be possible. Mr. Speaker, I think this is important to note: although the minister was not required to provide a briefing to the opposition, the member was offered a briefing and he declined.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in cases of legislation, annual reports, or any business that is to be placed before this Assembly, it is imperative that members' privilege is respected. Because this was a report to the minister and not business before the Assembly, and because the member from Saskatoon Centre was offered a briefing on the material by the Minister of Education, I firmly believe that the member's privilege has been respected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I would like to thank the Government House Leader for his comments, and I would like to refer him to Speaker Milliken's ruling of March the 19th, 2011 regarding the practice of media lock-ups and embargoed technical briefings, whether they are bills, budgets, or auditor general's reports.

The ability of members to carry out their functions in the Assembly is relevant whether they have the information. The question of whether or not a member was offered is to be determined here in this Assembly. That's what the question is about.

I maintain my earlier position that a prima facie case, based on the evidence presented by the opposition, is in place. This does not judge whether or not their case is valid, but rather whether or not there is a question that needs to be determined here. And I rule that there is a question to be determined, and I recognize

the Opposition House Leader.

### PRIVILEGE

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My remarks this afternoon will be relatively brief. This is a straightforward case and the remedy is simple. The government needs to respect the rights and privileges of all members of this Assembly, and that means, going forward, this government should commit to ensure that official opposition members and staff are privy to any and all embargoed information provided to members of the news media. And members on that side of the House have argued this very point in the past, Mr. Speaker.

The member for Saskatoon Southeast seconded a motion regarding a point of privilege on April 11, 2005. In that debate the member said:

This goes to the very fundamentals of our democratic process, Mr. Speaker. And I think if the members opposite step back and just consider who is paying for this, they would give it some thought and they would say, absolutely. As soon as we're going to give it to the media, we should give it to the members opposite. They sign the embargo agreement the same way that the media does, and deal with it in the same fashion.

And he also said:

It's imperative that all of us as MLAs are going to have . . . full, complete, frank, and open access to all information that's prepared by . . . [and] for any government official when it's being presented to the media.

Those are the words of the current Minister of Education, the member for Saskatoon Southeast, from page 2456 of *Hansard* from April 11th, 2005. Those same words could apply to the situation before us today, Mr. Speaker.

Last Thursday, November 14th, 2013, Executive Council staff provided members of the media with embargoed copies of *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying* prepared by the MLA for Saskatoon Fairview in her role as the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education responsible for the anti-bullying initiative. Yet the official opposition was not provided a copy of that report until the press conference held at Arcola Community School later that afternoon. By doing that, by denying members of this Assembly access to the same kind of information in a timely way as is provided to the media, the actions of Executive Council staff members constitute contempt of this Legislative Assembly. I quote from Speaker Milliken's ruling from March 19th, 2001:

The issue of denying members information that they need to do their work has been the key consideration for the Chair in reviewing this particular question of privilege. To deny to members information concerning business that is about to become before the House, while at the same time providing such information to media that will likely be questioning members about that business, is a situation the Chair cannot condone.

We know that the Speaker found a prima facie breach of privilege in that case. The matter was debated in the House and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs which reported as follows, and again I quote:

The major difficulty in this case arises from the fact that the pre-introduction briefing was offered exclusively to representatives of the media. Not only were members of the House of Commons not offered or invited to such a briefing, their staff was explicitly denied entry to the technical briefing that was given. Members were therefore predisposed to disadvantage and embarrassment in that they could be questioned about business to come before the House or be just introduced without being provided the same information as those asking them had.

The committee's report went on to say:

Such an action impedes, obstructs, and disadvantages . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. There seems to be a fair number of members who wish to enter the debate. If you wish, I can keep track of a list for you and invite you to speak later, but please let the current member on his feet have his debate.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To return to the quote from the committee's report. It stated:

Such an action impedes, obstructs, and disadvantages Members of Parliament in carrying out their parliamentary functions. In all of these circumstances, the Committee has come to the inescapable conclusion that the privileges of the House and of its Members have been breached in this case.

The case that we have before us this afternoon is highly similar to the particular case out of Ottawa. I'm sure that all members will agree with me, especially after listening to the words of the current Minister of Education from 2005, that it is unacceptable to provide embargoed information to the media but not to members of this Assembly. And I'm sure that all members will also agree with me that it is imperative to remedy this situation and to have government make a public commitment to ensure that official opposition members and staff are provided with the same access to information that is provided to the members of news media.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I move the following motion:

That this Assembly finds Executive Council staff members in contempt of the Legislative Assembly in that they failed to provide the official opposition with the same access as the media to the report entitled *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying*; and

That this Assembly urge the government to respect the rights and privileges of all members of this Assembly by ensuring that official opposition members and their staff are privy to any and all such embargoed information provided to the members of the news media.

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with some degree of sorrow that I . . .

**The Speaker:** — Just a second. I forgot to read the motion. It has been moved by the Opposition House Leader:

That this Assembly finds Executive Council staff members in contempt of the Legislative Assembly in that they failed to provide the official opposition with the same access as the media to the report entitled *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying*; and

That this Assembly urge the government to respect the rights and privilege of all members of this Assembly by ensuring that official opposition members and their staff are privy to any and all such embargoed information provided to the members of the news media.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak to two elements on this very briefly. Firstly on process, you, Mr. Speaker, referenced the new privilege rules which we put in place. I've reviewed them again and, as I mentioned in my previous remarks, along with the Opposition House Leader, I drafted these rules. Nowhere in these rules does it indicate that the Speaker can't hear submissions on whether he's going to make a prima facie finding of privilege. This is one of the most serious matters you can have in front of the House, and to not be able to provide a submission, from a purely process point of view, I think is absolutely wrong, absolutely contrary to the spirit of how we operate in this Assembly, contrary to the spirit of hundreds of years of traditions.

This is a big deal, Mr. Speaker. And how we were not able to make our case prior to the decision being rendered, I think is frankly inexcusable. I have never seen that in any other parliament. I've never heard of that occurring in any other parliament. You look at kind of the underpinnings of how our legal system work — which frankly this is a court of law in addition to being a place for debate — parties that are either charged or brought before a court have an opportunity to defend themselves. That is an absolute cornerstone of our system, and not being able to do that I think is a travesty.

[14:45]

In terms of the substance of the ruling, the member from Saskatoon Centre was offered a briefing. He was offered this the day prior to the report being released. What are we supposed to do, Mr. Speaker, if the opposition don't avail themselves of the opportunity? The precedent that's been set is essentially that any report that's going to be publicly released, if they don't agree to get the briefing in advance, then we can't release it. It's a question of privilege. This is a very, very dangerous road that we have embarked upon here.

And secondly, on the substance of the motion . . . or substance of the decision, to have the extension of members' privileges

recognized into the realm of executive government — meaning, what if a deputy minister writes a report to a minister? We have to tell the opposition that? — is that what the ruling is? I mean we've been very careful in crafting walls between the executive, the legislative, and the judicial, and we've struck that balance. And I don't just mean us in this Assembly. I mean our predecessors who have sat here, who have sat in Westminster, who have sat in the House of Commons and found that balance between the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. This ruling today greatly upsets that balance. What the Speaker has ruled is that the privileges of members are now deemed to extend deep into the realm of executive government, contrary to literally hundreds of years of development of our system.

Mr. Speaker, I think this ruling was wrong, absolutely wrong, creates an incredibly dangerous precedent going into the future, not to mention the process aspect which I've already talked about. I have very, very serious concerns about this. And like I said, Mr. Speaker — it pains me to say this; I have great respect for you — but I think you got this one wrong.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the Government House Leader ought to check their facts before they put out specific claims. The Minister of Education offered to tell me a few details about the report. That was at 4:25 on Wednesday afternoon. It was not a briefing, and it was not a copy of the report. The minister simply said he would share a few broad details with me, as we often do behind the bar. And many of us do that as a collegial thing on the floor here, but it certainly did not meet the requirements of the government to provide equal information to the opposition as it does to the media.

So this is a straightforward case and the remedy is simple. The government needs to respect the rights and privileges of all members of the Assembly. This means going forward this government should commit to ensure that official opposition members and staff are privy to any and all embargoed information provided to members of the news media.

And the members on that side of the House have argued this in the past. The member for Saskatoon Southeast seconded a motion regarding a point of privilege on April 11th, 2005. In that debate the member said, and I quote:

This goes to the very fundamentals of our democratic process, Mr. Speaker. And I think if the members opposite step back and just consider who is paying for this, they would give it some thought and they would say, absolutely. As soon as we're going to give it to the media, we should give it to the members opposite. They sign the embargo agreement the same way that the media does, and deal with it in this same fashion.

And he also said, and I quote:

It's imperative that all of us as MLAs are going to have . . . full, complete, frank, and open access to all information that's prepared by or for any government official when it's being presented to the media.

These are the words of the current Minister of Education, the member for Saskatoon Southeast, from page 2456 of *Hansard* from April 11th, 2005. These same words apply to this situation that we have before us today. To offer an informal chat is not the same as an embargoed briefing. The Minister of Education ought to know that, and the Premier ought to know that, and the Executive Council staff ought to know that as well, Mr. Speaker. So I will be supporting the motion.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've heard the member's opposite remarks and comments and don't wish to take a great deal of exception with the facts. But I can tell the House, Mr. Speaker, that over the last number of weeks, I had had discussions here or there with the member opposite about where we might go or what we might do with the bullying issue, it being a very important issue to all members of the House.

I made a point of going over there knowing full well that we would be releasing the report the following day. I asked the member what he wanted to talk about or would he want to have discussion with it. He said he wanted to have no discussion about it. I knew at that point in time, Mr. Speaker, that it was the member's intention to raise the issue again at question period the following day, which in fact he did, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to be quite blunt, you can't have it both ways. You can't sit and say, I wish to have all the information, but then that I don't wish to have it so that I can raise the matter in question period. Mr. Speaker, at that point in time, I contacted my staff and indicated that the member opposite did not wish to have a further meeting, further discussions with it, and that we could anticipate the matter coming up in question period the following day.

I had indicated to the member opposite that the report was going to be released the following day. I did not, Mr. Speaker — and maybe it is to my error — did not say, would you like to have an embargoed copy the following morning? I took it at that point in time that it was full stop — the member did not wish anything else on it.

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do want to clarify a couple of things I think that . . . not only for the members in this Assembly but also for people that are probably watching this debate and are wondering what is really going on.

Mr. Speaker, we've had mention of previous rulings by Speakers, both here in this Assembly and by a Speaker in the House of Commons. Mr. Speaker, in both cases, there is reference to report, a report. The report is always, Mr. Speaker, a report that has to be laid before the Assembly on the Speaker's table or the Clerk's table.

Mr. Speaker, in the *Hansard* of April 11, 2005 — and the members opposite have made reference to this — and this is right directly from *Hansard*, it says, "Earlier today, SaskWater officials were holding an embargoed technical briefing on the



2004 annual report for members of the news media.” That’s the end of the first quote, Mr. Speaker.

That’s a report that has to be tabled in this Assembly. It goes on, Mr. Speaker, to say:

Mr. Speaker, the official opposition sent a staff member to that technical briefing, requesting that they be in attendance, and a member of Executive Council told him he was prohibited from attending at the meeting.

So, Mr. Speaker, it’s clear that in Speaker Kowalsky’s ruling, we have a report that was to be laid before the Assembly, and a member of the opposition was not allowed to see it at the same time as the media.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of the federal parliament when Speaker Milliken ruled, he says this. I would like to quote from Speaker . . . And I’m going to quote from Speaker Milliken’s statement on the March 19th, 2001, case that the member opposite has referenced: “However, with respect to material to be placed before parliament, the House must take precedence.”

Mr. Speaker, that’s pretty clear language. That’s pretty clear language that says if there is a report . . . And he goes on to use the word report as you have, Mr. Speaker, in your ruling that says, that the report. In all cases, Mr. Speaker, these reports are reports that have to be placed on the table here in the Legislative Assembly, both provincially and federally.

So, Mr. Speaker, to go beyond that to deal with reports, as my colleague has indicated, where we have reports prepared by a deputy minister, by someone else, that are directly to the minister, that have . . . will not be laid on the desk, that will not be tabled in this Assembly, to extend this now to every report including this one . . . I mean I think the Minister of Education followed a process of saying, listen, we want you to understand what’s in this report. And on the day before, he puts the information before the member opposite to say, do you really want this? The member chose not to. Didn’t have to do that, Mr. Speaker, didn’t have to do that because this is not a report that is to be put before this Legislative Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, I think you have to consider that in terms of dealing with whether or not this indeed was a prima facie case.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, your prima facie ruling this afternoon and the point raised today goes to the heart of what it means to be a member of the legislature. And so the previous minister who just made some comments here, and the House Leader of the government earlier, goes to some of the technical issues around the documents. But the real issue, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we as legislators have a job to do in this place. And there is a fundamental rule which has been developed over the decades that says that when you give information to the media in an embargoed fashion, it should immediately trigger that you should give that to the members of the legislature — all members. It doesn’t just mean opposition. It means all members in this place. And, Mr. Speaker, that fundamental point is the issue today, and I thank you for your prima facie ruling on that point. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader for closing remarks, no more than 15 minutes.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In invoking my right to close debate, as per the rules, I just want to point out a couple of things. I’d attach myself to the comments made by the Opposition Deputy House Leader who’s talked about points raised by the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Leader of the government, and by my respected colleague, the Government House Leader, who have both said a variation of the same thing which is: if a government official is going to brief a minister, then if this ruling is found that that will somehow trigger the need to provide an embargoed briefing or some kind of briefing to a member of the opposition, to a member of this Legislative Assembly, that is clearly not what is under consideration here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

What is under consideration is whether or not, if an embargoed briefing is being afforded to the members of the media, which again in terms of informed comment and making sure that the media can do their job, well surely to goodness that same courtesy, that same privilege, Mr. Speaker, should be afforded to the members of this Legislative Assembly whose job it is, if you’re in the opposition benches, first and foremost is to hold that government to account.

And again in terms of the words that we’ve referenced on the record from 2005 from the Minister of Education in terms of what that individual said about making sure that work that is prepared for the government and ensuring that if it’s going forth in an embargoed briefing that that same privilege should be afforded to members of this Legislative Assembly, we stand with that edition of what the member had to say then. And we stand with the notion that if these embargoed briefings are going to take place with the media, then that privilege should be afforded to the members of the Legislative Assembly. It’s as simple as that, Mr. Speaker.

If it was on any other subject, Mr. Speaker, that point would stand. But here today, arguing that we have all of the information provided to the media, to the public’s representatives in the official opposition benches, that that information is afforded in a fair and timely manner, that’s what we’re arguing for here today, Mr. Speaker. And the fact that you have found a prima facie case points to the seriousness of this point, and of course the remedy before us is a vote of this Legislative Assembly. And again, the point would stand, Mr. Speaker, that if that embargoed briefing is going to be afforded to the members of the media for any matter of government policy, then the same privilege should be extended to the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, that we’re here today arguing about the privileged release, a question of privilege as it relates to a document prepared in hopes that it will inform government policy in the critical work of anti-bullying, I think underlines the gravity of what we’re trying to communicate here today, Mr. Speaker, and that is, it’s a very serious matter. It’s a matter of life and death, and we take the work that has been done very seriously, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

And we want, as is part of our job, as is part of the trust that has been extended to us by the people of Saskatchewan, we want to be able to provide that full and informed accounting and demand for account that the people have sent us to this legislature to perform. And when we stand up in defence of those privileges, Mr. Speaker, when we stand up in defence of that practice in this Legislative Assembly, and when the reaction is for certain of the members opposite to try and shout us down, Mr. Speaker, I think it points out the lack of seriousness that certain of the members are approaching the duties with which they have been entrusted by the people of this province.

And I also find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, that, you know, there's a government with a great majority over there, a strong majority. And how you use those powers, Mr. Speaker, tells us a lot about the character of an individual and it tells a lot about the character of a government.

And I am again, Mr. Speaker, grateful that you have found a prima facie case in regards to this question of privilege that has been brought before you, because again it points out the seriousness that when government policy is brought before the media, that that same privilege should be extended to the members of the Legislative Assembly. And the members opposite can argue technicalities about whether it's a report or they can raise specious arguments, Mr. Speaker, in terms of situations that don't apply. But if the situation raised by members opposite, if the case has been raised before by a deputy minister to a minister that a privileged briefing should be provided to members of the legislature, that's not what we're arguing, Mr. Speaker. But if that communication triggers an embargoed briefing to the members of the media, Mr. Speaker, then absolutely that's what we're arguing.

Information in a democracy is vital, Mr. Speaker. It's what serves these issues that we try to address on this floor. And the seriousness of this, Mr. Speaker, again is underlined by the fact that we're here today considering a principle and a process that is triggered by work around anti-bullying. Serious stuff, Mr. Speaker. That seriousness has been underlined by the fact that you found a prima facie case, a case on the face of it that demanded consideration by this Assembly.

And again, Mr. Speaker, to do the job that we have been sent to this Legislative Assembly is something that we take very seriously. We take that trust very seriously. We take the precedents that we have marshalled today in support of our arguments, we take them very seriously. We're coming to a vote, Mr. Speaker, where with its majority the government can very easily come up with the finding that they want. But I think the fact that the Speaker has found that a prima facie case existed speaks for itself, and that if that government is going to be affording embargoed briefings to the media on matters of government policy, then that same privilege should be extended to the members of the Legislative Assembly.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to do my job as a member of this Legislative Assembly, and I'd invite that the question be now put.

**The Speaker:** — Before putting the question, I would like to respond to some of the comments and questions that were

asked. The question of holding a debate prior to the debate, prior to the determination of the speaker of a prima facie case, is to actually hold the debate twice. That issue was discussed and debated over a period of time prior to the implementation of the new rules, and it was determined at that time that the case needed to be presented as part of the motion.

Secondly, the question is not about which government papers are released but rather the question of that information, those papers being provided in an embargoed sense to the media while withholding that same information from the members of the House before making it public.

Thirdly, I do not judge the outcome of the debate. That is decided by the members of this House. Rather, it is my role to determine whether there is a question of privilege worthy of the debate.

I will now call the question moved by the Opposition House Leader:

That this Assembly finds Executive Council staff members in contempt of the Legislative Assembly in that they failed to provide the official opposition with the same access to the media to the report entitled *Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying*; and

That this Assembly urge the government to respect the rights and privileges of all members of this Assembly by ensuring that official opposition members and their staff are privy to any and all such embargoed information provided to members of the news media.

Is the Assembly ready for the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the nos have it. All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the nos have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:07 until 15:16.]

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 7]

Broten  
Belanger

Forbes  
McCall

Wotherspoon  
Nilson

Sproule

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 42]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Harpauer	Huyghebaert	Doherty
Norris	McMillan	Heppner
Harrison	Wyant	Tell
Weekes	Bjornerud	Brkich
Hutchinson	Makowsky	Ottenbreit
Campeau	Wilson	Marchuk
Ross	Kirsch	Michelson
Doke	Cox	Merriman
Jurgens	Steinley	Hickie
Lawrence	Tochor	Moe
Parent	Phillips	Docherty

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 7; those opposed, 42.

**The Speaker:** — The motion fails.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 108 — *The Athletics Commission Act*

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

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about *The Athletics Commission Act, 2013*, which is a new Act respecting the Athletics Commission, professional boxing, mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions.

Until recently, Saskatchewan was one of only three provinces that had not taken the necessary steps to sanction professional combative sports events, including mixed martial arts and boxing. Without a mechanism that sanctions and oversees professional combative sports events in Saskatchewan, promoters may stage unsanctioned events and hold them without appropriate standards or safety precautions that help protect participants and spectators.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not about promoting mixed martial arts as a sport, but about regulating it. By regulating this sport, we help eliminate illegal fights putting athletes and, in some cases, children, Mr. Speaker, at risk.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, amendments were made recently to the Criminal Code which had implications for Saskatchewan. Bill S-209 was passed in June 2013. This bill amends section 83 of the Criminal Code, legalizing the sport of mixed martial arts across Canada under the authority of a provincial athletics commission or similar established body.

Mr. Speaker, the changes to the Criminal Code provided our province with clarity and an ideal opportunity to put legislation in place to regulate the legitimate side of the sport yet shut down the unsanctioned events that put participants at risk for serious injury.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, this government has committed to establishing a provincial athletics commission. The commission will hold the authority to sanction professional boxing and mixed martial arts events. This commission will be designed to ensure a consistent standard of qualifications, rules, regulations, and safety protocols for all participants and officials across the province. Furthermore, the commission will have the authority to provide protocols for licence applications, event permits, as well as the terms and conditions of a particular event.

It also ensures that competitors participate in appropriate pre-fight medical testing such as blood tests, concussion screening, and eye exams. It ensures that qualified medical staff and event officials are hired, that promoters and competitors have the proper licenses, and that promoters have suitable liability insurance.

The commission will also be responsible for tracking competitors' fighting histories and ensuring safety protocols are enforced. The proposed commission will consist of five individuals, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport will appoint an athletics commissioner who is to be an employee of the ministry. The minister will also establish an advisory committee of three subject matter experts. The Lieutenant Governor in Council will appoint an adjudicator who will be responsible to consider appeals for administrative penalties, licences, and event permits.

My ministry has been working with stakeholders to ensure the legislation and regulations have proper protocols and clauses in place to operate an effective and successful commission. Ministry officials have been working closely with the Ministry of Justice and stakeholders who are closely impacted by this issue. Other provincial jurisdictions and commissions have also been consulted with and primarily include individuals from British Columbia, Ontario, and Manitoba.

Five of the seven provinces that regulate professional MMA [mixed martial arts] events have provincial commissions. From speaking with provinces across Canada, we know provincial commissions are proving to be the most effective governance model. According to provincial jurisdictions, establishing a provincial athletics commission provides a number of benefits including consistency in rules, regulations, and processes across the province; enhanced ability to hold large-scale events; potential overall cost efficiencies; and effective use of a limited group of individuals properly qualified and knowledgeable about the sector.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to provide an overview of what the legislation will outline. The legislation frames areas such as responsibilities and powers of the commissioner, licensing and event permits, security deposit, inspections and investigations, administrative penalties, appeals, and the regulations necessary for this Act. Within the legislation, the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport will also have the authority to apply for a

compliance order to prevent individuals from proceeding with an event contrary to the Act and regulations. We want to ensure illegal activity is prevented before occurring.

Over the past 15 years, mixed martial arts has been one of the fastest growing professional sports across Canada and North America, due mostly to the Ultimate Fighting Championship, UFC. Growth in this sport and support for the provincial Athletics Commission in Saskatchewan has been demonstrated in recent months. The city of Saskatoon and the city mayors' caucus formally requested that government establish a provincial commission. From their perspective, a commission contributes to part of the province's growth plan through increasing economic opportunities.

With the growth in the sport there has also been an increase of unsanctioned events in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned that without some type of mechanism that sanctions and oversees such events, these unsanctioned events may continue.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Athletics Commission Act, 2013*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased on behalf of the official opposition to stand today to give our initial comments on Bill 108. And I certainly want to point out to the folks that are listening, one of the values of the Assembly here is to be able to share information, via the official legislative channel here of course, and to the media and through the government press process to advise people what is being planned with the bill that's before the Assembly today, Bill 108, *The Athletics Commission Act*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister very briefly pointed out the process that he wishes to undertake to establish an athletics commission, in the sense of trying to make sure that one of the processes of putting a commission in place is to ensure that we have a way to monitor some of the mixed martial arts fights that may have occurred or will occur in Saskatchewan. And I think the notion, Mr. Speaker, is obviously on the unsanctioned fights. This is something that I think the people of Saskatchewan certainly don't want to see occur. And of course when you have unsanctioned fights, there is a lot of illegal activities around those fights and we obviously, from the perspective of the opposition, want to make sure that we don't allow that to continue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's no question as you look through the bill that the official opposition certainly want to know who the government consulted on this particular bill. I think myself being a fight fan, I watch a lot of the UFC fights. In fact Saturday night I attended a function where I seen our Canadian champ retain his title.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's a great opportunity for folks back home to fundraise and to see the sport at its best in terms of being legal, to see the sport at its best in terms of making sure that

there's no injury, to make sure that they're properly monitored, and that there is some generation of wealth for the participants and of course for the promoters and for those that are hosting the events. So there's no question that from our perspective we look at boxing as a sport. We look at the mixed martial arts venue, as we see on the UFC front, as a sport. And these sporting events certainly have the ability to draw some great crowds and some great groups and organizations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it really . . . pointing out that this move that we're doing today, Bill 108, is actually a move that comes after the House of Commons motion, in which they passed a bill in June legalizing contact sports such as MMA, mixed martial arts. And certainly I think having a provincial athletics commission put in place to monitor that burgeoning opportunity in the sport field I think is probably pretty sound because you obviously want to make sure that that is done properly.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about boxing being only allowed under the old prizefighting law, leaving other combat sports such as karate, tae kwon do, and again mixed martial arts in legal limbo. And what you want to do is you want to refine and define those particular sports to make sure that it's properly monitored and that there is a good process to oversee these particular prizefighting events.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand, just basically from the discussions that we had and some of the comments made by the government, that the proposed commission will consist of five people: an athletics commissioner, an advisory committee comprised of three subject matter experts, and an adjudicator. So obviously I'm assuming that there will be people from the karate and tae kwon do and mixed martial arts background that would be part of the three people that are on this new committee.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think what's also important is that they do the medical exams, the pre-fight and the post-fight, because obviously the mixed martial arts contests are very, very, are very tough on the performers or the participants. And we all see the fights on television, and there's a lot of violence of course. But the amazing thing, Mr. Speaker, is you watch that particular UFC fight — and again I admit that I watch a number of them — but you notice before the fight and after the fight there is a lot of respect between the participants.

And I think that we notice that as a fan or somebody just simply observing the fight, that they know that these participants view this as a sport and that they don't view this in a negative way, that clearly that there are some that have really bad attitudes after a fight, of course, but the vast majority of the participants in mixed martial arts competition, you will notice that they abide by the rules. They abide by the process in terms of exams. They abide by the decisions. Sometimes they don't like the choices that the judges make, but by and large after the fight is over they generally have a lot of respect for each other. They shake hands and they often hug each other because the bottom line is that they look at this as not a violent act against each other but more or less a combative sport event that they are trying to excel at and be good at.

And there's no question, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the incredible fundraising opportunity that many organizations

could participate on or can participate with when it comes to the mixed martial arts opportunity, that this could be certainly a lot of opportunity for different groups in different organizations.

[15:30]

Obviously I think the government has the same train of thought and certainly the same manner in which we hope that the Athletics Commission would operate, in the sense that health and safety must be a top priority.

Obviously we see in hockey lately there's been a lot of discussion around injuries to hockey players. And obviously concussion is one of the biggest things that people are worried about. And we see some great athletes over the years become injured. We obviously . . . It's big business, and I think business wants to ensure that their athletes are not being hurt needlessly. And they need to have this kind of oversight.

So I think safety and health of the participants ought to be a top priority, and also protection in the long run. Because obviously you look at some of the NHL [National Hockey League] players, as I give you the example of hockey, professional hockey's very fast. It's very hard-hitting. It's very competitive and there's a huge, huge fan base. But obviously as you play hockey and you begin to get subjected to some of the hits and some of the pressures and some of the challenges of being a professional hockey player, over time your body does pay a price.

So I think a lot of the players recognize that and that's why you have the NHL Players' Association to look after their members. And you would assume and hope that a commission of this sort that looks after the mixed martial arts fight contests, that they also look after their participants as well. I think that goes without saying that it's something that's really, really important when it comes to this particular art itself.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of different things that we need to be aware of when it comes to this particular bill. We want to see more of the information and the details around what the legislation involves. Obviously the minister gave a very brief synopsis of what they would like to do, and we want to see the detail. There's a lot of detail that we need to look at. And some of the things that we want to talk about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is things like who they consulted along the way.

I know that other provinces have different or individual municipalities that oversee a local athletics commission. Was this taken into consideration? Obviously being a five-member commission, you'd obviously want to consult with the different municipal structures throughout our province to see what kind of advice that they may offer. And was SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and was SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] advised? Did they participate in the discussion of this particular event?

Obviously we talk a bit about the potential for injury or worse, brain damage, as we unveil this sport and as more and more venues provide this fundraising opportunity, that you obviously have to make sure that the combatants are properly insured and that there is careful consideration for their current health.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier at the outset, the brain injuries in sport is something that we ought to be careful. I'm sure that the minister's aware of that particular concern that we all have. There's a number of people out there in the province that can attest to some of the challenges when it comes to concussions in different sports, whether it'd be hockey or football or now MMA. So it is certainly something that we ought to be concerned with.

And again I know that people could legally protect themselves by having the participants or the combatants sign a waiver and full well know what they're getting into. But, Mr. Speaker, I think it's incumbent upon the higher supporters of this particular sport, and that being government, that they put the proper protection in place to ensure that if a fighter gets hurt, or worse, gets brain injury, then that there is provisions to ensure that they have a decent income after if they get injured, and that there's provisions that would care for them following their career if there is some MMA event in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now a lot of people would certainly point out that if you look at the brain injury itself, the particular field of brain injury, it's really not understood to the extent that it should be understood. We have a lot of experts indicating that over time. And you look at some of the football players. You look at some of the hockey players, MMA players, or participants rather. These are some of the folks that would certainly have a lot of experience in the industry, would know exactly what are the latest trends in brain injury.

So we want to make sure that if we embark on this particular trial run of MMA in Saskatchewan, that safety and certainly health concerns are a huge part of our effort to try and legalize this particular sporting event, and to make sure that the participants and the public know that these participants are insured and cared for, and that there are stringent rules to ensure that they aren't hurt any more than they have to be hurt.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a number of questions we have. Obviously when people want to fundraise . . . And we see this happen on a number of occasions where you have alcohol served at some of these events. Is that part of the overall process when we look through this particular bill, Bill 108? What kind of venues would be allowed? What organizations can host some of these venues? How would you consider the class of fighters? How many events can a five-person Athletics Commission really sanction and monitor? What's the number of staff dedicated to this? These are some of the specific information that we would want as an opposition, because it's important that we get that information.

Because as we mentioned at the outset, there are hundreds of groups and organizations throughout the province that might look at this particular bill as an opportunity for them to bring a MMA fight to their community and to determine . . . You know, it may be a great fundraiser, but how would they participate? Who would get priorities on some of the MMA fights? And these are some of the things that we need to find out, Mr. Speaker, as we begin the discussion of talking about this particular bill.

And I know that there'll be a lot of organizations, whether it be

municipal government, whether it be First Nations, whether it be community organizations, whether it be your local minor hockey association — these are some of the players that will probably apply for some of these MMA events. So how would that process work for them? How would they undertake an application process? How would they be approved? And where would they get the fighters from? Who would sanction these fighters? What's the process to insure the fighters? What's the process to making sure that there's medical clearance? Like all this information, Mr. Speaker, is important that we know beforehand so absolutely everybody in the province is aware of how this MMA bill could possibly work to their benefit when it comes to fundraising in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned at the outset, Saskatchewan is a vast province. There are events throughout the province that people do on a daily basis to try and fundraise for their various needs. And, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, it could be an event in Black Lake. It could be an event in Swift Current. And there's a wide difference in terms of the people. There's a wide difference in terms of the venues and of course the extent of the venues in each of these communities. So there's a lot of questions that we have as to how you would prioritize these different venues based on the application process.

So one would assume that basically that Bill 108 is to talk about setting up this MMA process, that they have an athletics commission that could approve these events. They have their strict guidelines, as the minister indicated. But we want to know as to, how would they prioritize these fights? Where do you normally get some of the participants? Is there a provision for local combatants to be able to participate in some of these events, following a rigid process of course? So these are some of the things that we look at in terms of the initial blush or our take on this particular bill, and to point out to the folks that it is indeed a great opportunity I think for people that might want to use this event as a fundraiser.

Saskatchewan I think has led the province . . . or the country in years as a province. We have led the country in years in the effort to be able to fundraise locally. The number of volunteers we have in our communities, that is something that Saskatchewan could be proud of. And we're going to see a lot of that activity in this next week because obviously the Roughriders won, and we're going to see Saskatchewan really burst at the seams in terms of having visitors. We're all very, very excited about that, and we're all of course cheering for the Roughriders. In fact we're wearing Roughrider ties to make sure that, to give them as much support as we can.

And it's really, really important, as I mentioned at the outset, when you have a sport that connects with the people . . . And the Roughriders are one of the organizations in our province that has a really strong base of support. They've got a lot of fans all over the place, and some of them are rabid fans, including the member from Athabasca. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, when the Roughriders lose, I'm kind of cranky for a week because when I know they ought to have won that game and they lose it, then the whole week I'm kind of cranky till their next win. And I think I share that same sentiment with a lot of folks out there, that when you identify with a sport and with a team like the Roughriders, then you know that it's a classy organization. They're a successful organization. They

have built up their organization over the years, and they represent our province.

So obviously there's a great deal of opportunity with this Bill 108 when you look at MMA, to make sure that we have the same values, the same fan base, the same followers, and the same expectations of professional conduct that we have of the Roughriders be afforded to many other venues such as MMA. That's a good example that I would say is important for folks out there to watch is, from our perspective, we look at MMA as a sport. And if you want to really set up MMA as a professional sport, then you need not look further than the Saskatchewan Roughriders as a team that shows you a number of values that the province of Saskatchewan love and like, and that of course being professional, being vigilant, being successful on the field and off the field and also, Mr. Speaker, showing their fans a lot of support over the years.

And this weekend I think is going to be a great event and a great celebration of the Roughriders, something that any aspiring group and organization such as MMA wants to emulate. Then the benefits are there because the Saskatchewan people will certainly embrace your sport and your industry much like they have the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

So I think there's a lot riding on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker. We see the economic value, there's no question, that local fundraising perspective. Recognizing it as a sport, taking care of the potential health threats and safety, making sure there's no unsanctioned fights — all the value points as you look down this particular bill. There's a lot of good value to what is going on.

And we would just basically point out that it's important that perhaps they should have afforded the same opportunity to the arts, the same opportunity to the film and employment tax credit, Mr. Speaker, because much of that industry was shut down by this government. And they bring along MMA in the hopes of trying to match the lost revenues of the film employment tax credit.

And, Mr. Speaker, imagine for a moment if the province not only had MMA, but also had the film employment tax credit to continue bolstering our local economies and supporting the working families out there that are impacted by these industries. Then that's our point from our perspective as the opposition, is that you should not have done that to the employment tax credit when it comes to the film industry. You should have kept that because it was working. You should have, if you wanted to refine it and make it better, you should have kept it and not simply thrown it away. And now has the same minister bringing in the MMA bill.

And, Mr. Speaker, they should have kept both of those particular perspectives as a revenue generating opportunity for the province to strengthen our economy, and that's exactly what we mean on this side of the Assembly when we talk about smart growth. The film employment tax credit was a great opportunity for a province and to continue building that industry in this province, and the Saskatchewan Party destroyed that industry. And they're bringing MMA in, Mr. Speaker. We hope that it pays off in dividends in terms of the economy. It's something that our leader said that we ought to support when it

makes sense. We'll continue keeping that.

And I can tell you if the MMA, through this particular bill, is successful in Saskatchewan, something that the NDP will not do is throw it out when we assume government, whether that be in a couple of years, Mr. Speaker. And from our perspective, if it works, the groups that are organizing it want that continued support, then I think from our perspective we wouldn't throw it out because it wasn't our idea. We would support it because it's good for the province. And I think that's a message that we want to continually press on to the people of Saskatchewan as per our new leader's directives. If it makes sense for the people of Saskatchewan, then we will support that initiative.

However it's incumbent upon us to make sure we get all the detail to make sure exactly what is happening with this particular bill or any other bill, that we do two things: that we watch very carefully what's in the bill to make sure we invite the public because that's our job as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] in opposition; and the second thing is we invite people in the province to participate in this particular bill, that if you have a concern or a question that you want the opposition to raise or you want to participate by giving us some letters or some feedback on this bill, then rest assured that that information is valued. And we would encourage you to participate in that process as well.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say on this particular bill, but we have my colleagues who will be looking to the bill as we continue to seek more advice and more input on this bill from the different players that may be involved in our province. So again on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 108.

[15:45]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### **Bill No. 102 — *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013***

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*. The primary purpose of *The Builders' Lien Act*, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that those individuals involved in the construction industry get paid for work and materials while at the same time providing the owners of projects with security and predictability.

The Act remains a careful balance between the rights and obligations of landowners and the building trades and professions that assist in construction projects. The protections offered through the Act are available to those trades and professions that perform services, including under the definition of improvement. One service that is not included as an

improvement, Mr. Speaker, are the services of a land surveyor such as the preparation of a survey plan and the placement of boundary markers. Land surveyors often work side alongside other tradespeople and professionals that perform services that are recognized as improvements under the Act, such as architects and engineers. Accordingly this bill will amend the definition of improvement to provide that land surveyors and professional surveyors can utilize the process under the Act to recover unpaid fees for their services.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also increase the limitation period applicable to trust claims from one to two years. The Act currently provides that a trustee is discharged from its obligations on the expiry of one year after the contract is completed or abandoned. The limitation period is at odds with the general two-year limitation period in *The Limitations Act*. Additionally it often catches claimants by surprise, as a trust claim is usually brought at the same time as a lien claim, to which a two-year limitation period applies.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, this bill will update the section in the Act that determines when a contract is deemed to be complete. The current wording of the Act provides that a contract is deemed to be complete when the price of completion is not more than 1 per cent of the contract price or \$1,000, whichever is less. The reference to \$1,000, which was established in 1986, no longer reflects current construction costs. By repealing the \$1,000 figure, a contract will deem to be complete when the price of completion is not more than 1 per cent of the contract price. This is viewed as a flexible benchmark that will adjust automatically with the scale of construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has enjoyed a number of years of incredible growth in many sectors, and the strength of investment in construction and the building trades is no exception. These amendments update *The Builders' Lien Act* so that it can continue to serve builders and contractors alike. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to first of all point out that we have had a lot of discussion on this particular bill just as an opposition, and we want to . . . [inaudible] . . . It's very minor in some of the changes, and we want to make sure that the impacts or effects of some of the plan of this bill are certainly supported by some of the people it's intended to support.

And obviously I will concur with the member opposite in the sense that Saskatchewan has enjoyed great growth for a great number of years, and we want to make sure that as a province we continue moving that growth forward for as many, many years as possible. The last number of years, Mr. Speaker, we've had great success in construction. We've seen certainly the Saskatchewan Roughriders playing for the Grey Cup here in their home province. And these are some of the things that obviously, from our perspective as the opposition, we want to see continue because there's no opposition member on this side

of the Assembly ever wants to see Saskatchewan go through what we went through in the 1990s when we were so broke that we couldn't do some of the things that we enjoy doing today, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important to note that when you look at the bill, the Bill 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act*, it certainly, from our perspective at the outset, when you look at adding a new definition for the land surveyor, we think that if people have been consulted within the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association and they support this particular process, which I'm assuming that they do . . . And I underline assume because, Mr. Speaker, it's important that they know that if they do indeed support this particular amendment, then as I said at the outset, our leader, our current leader has indicated where it makes sense, where it makes sense, we want to make sure that we are supportive of some of the initiatives of the government as long as the prize is continuing watching Saskatchewan grow and to flourish and to prosper. That is currently what we're certainly looking at, Mr. Speaker.

And as I look at the current bill, Bill 102, when they are actually including or adding a new definition of land surveyor and some of the subtrades that are involved with construction, that they want to expand and support as many of those business people as possible, Mr. Speaker, we think it makes sense to do so. And that's why the Bill 102, no matter how minor in some of the changes that they want to make, it's always important to pay attention to these bills because these bills certainly are going to support a continued growth of Saskatchewan if they have the proper consultation and if they have the proper endorsement of some of the players that are out there.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we obviously need a bit more clarification and information around the one section which is section 4 which removes the \$1,000 and leaves just 1 per cent in the bill. Mr. Speaker, we need to know what the impacts of that is. And obviously the point that the minister raised when he says obviously it adjusts automatically with higher priced projects, we need to find out what impact and what effect it has on a number of projects throughout the province. Because obviously there are some really big projects out there, and there's obviously some minor home projects out there. How does this bill affect that? Does it deviate in terms of the strength of the contractor versus the homeowner? Is there a court process involved? Is there some discussion involved? We need to find out all that information, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that as you look at, by and large, the industry itself, that there are by and large most of the folks out in the province of Saskatchewan, when they have a project in place, whether it's a new home build or a major build, usually the contractors are taken care of. There is a process to put a lien if someone doesn't pay their bill or there is a discrepancy or there is an argument over the value of that contract versus what was delivered.

You obviously want to find a balance. You want to find a happy medium between the contractor and the proponent of the project or the homeowner, Mr. Speaker, because obviously, as you would know, there is a lot of opportunity for disagreement when you contract a worker to do a certain amount of work in your home or on a bigger project and it doesn't get done to your

specifications. What happens then? And obviously on the flip side, if the contractor delivers the services and feels that he's completed the services and the project manager or the homeowner doesn't want to pay them, then obviously it works both ways.

So we need to find out basic information as to how big of a problem is this throughout the province. Is there more problems within the homeowner and contractor relationship or is there more of a problem between the contractor and large company builds? Is that a problem area as well? These are some of the questions that we need to find out when you look at some of the changes and modification on that particular bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective, looking at trying to include all players, whether they're architects or whether they're land surveyors or whether they're inspectors versus whether they're electricians or plumbers or framers, Mr. Speaker, when you build a house, all those costs should be involved. When you have a major project, all those players are involved. So certainly from our perspective we understand that when you build a house it's not just your lumber and your nails and your roofing. It has everything involved right from the surveyors to the architect. These are all fees that are incorporated in building a new home and when you have the process that includes all the players and defines the process of each of the players then that, Mr. Speaker, I think from our perspective would make sense.

So I think I would certainly want to have more information, as I mentioned earlier, about whether there are certain problem areas that we need to be aware of as an official opposition. We would encourage folks that are out there, whether they're contractors or homeowners, that if you ran into a problem that this Act doesn't really resolve or doesn't address, then we need to know about it as well. So I think it's important that we let the people of Saskatchewan know that any of these bills that you see on this channel or hear about through government, the government process, then let us know and we'll certainly raise those questions. Because they have the opportunity during committee and you've certainly got the opportunity during QP [question period] and you've got the opportunity through some of these reading speeches to bring up some of the concerns that the people of Saskatchewan may address.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we'll have a lot more to say about this bill as we go through the process of researching the bill, analyzing the bill, and getting information from different groups and organizations. So I think it's important for the people of Saskatchewan to know that there'll be much more debate on this bill and more presentations by my caucus colleagues as we continue to assess this particular bill. On that notion, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.



**Bill No. 103 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires***

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*. Mr. Speaker, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997* governs the operation of the maintenance enforcement office. Established in 1986, the MEO [maintenance enforcement office] is responsible for recording and enforcing registered support orders. The MEO continues to have one of the highest collection rates in Canada. In 2012-13 fiscal year, over 91 per cent of payments were collected, resulting in a record-setting amount of over \$39 million in collections.

Mr. Speaker, the MEO regularly reviews and suggests updates to the legislation to ensure that it's offering the public the best possible service in the enforcement of support orders. One critical purpose of the Act is that it provides the MEO several enforcement mechanisms to help ensure that the support payments are complied with. Currently the director may place garnishments on wages or other income, suspend driver's licences, apply for the denial of federal licences such as passports, and place garnishments with the federal government in order to intercept funds such as GST [goods and services tax] refunds and income tax refunds. The director may also attach and collapse pension entitlements and RRSPs [registered retirement savings plan]. Ultimately the director may apply for seizure of a payor's property.

The amendments before the Assembly today will provide a further enforcement tool, Mr. Speaker, as they will permit the director of the MEO to direct the Minister of the Environment to prohibit a hunting or angling licence from being issued to a payor who is in arrears on support payments by at least three months. Restricting the ability of an individual to secure a hunting or angling licence is an enforcement tool that will complement the MEO's existing enforcement tools.

Mr. Speaker, the intention is that this new tool will only be utilized where other enforcement actions aimed at the financial resources of the payor prove unsuccessful. Accordingly, these amendments require the MEO to take all reasonable steps to enforce the order prior to restricting the payor's ability to secure a hunting or an angling licence.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the director will need to provide the payor with at least 30 days notice of his or her intention to restrict the payor's ability to secure a hunting or angling licence. Mr. Speaker, these amendments provide the MEO with an additional enforcement tool and confirm the government's commitment to the timely payment of support for children and families.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of*

*Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

[16:00]

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite pleased to be able to once again stand up on behalf of the official opposition to talk about this particular bill and *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* which primarily is an Act that's designed to try and get as much support, financial support from some of the parents of some of the children, who may not be in a relationship with their spouses, to be able to force them to make their child support payments, whether it's the mother that's forced to make child support payments or the father is forced to make the child support payments.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, where the partner is forced, you know, to do these child support payments, I think it's important to note that, from the opposition perspective, we need to do all we can to strengthen the families. And sometimes when you have the opportunity to keep the family together, you do all you can. I see a lot of folks in my community doing what they can to support the families, and they certainly contribute their part to strengthen the families as a community and as concerned citizens and as extended families.

But when there's a situation where the families are no longer able to stay together, then you have the separation. The last people you want to hurt — and obviously it's the first people they hurt — are the children that are involved. And despite some of their best efforts, some families do break up. And what you have is you have an enforcement order against a particular parent that does not want to pay child support, Mr. Speaker.

And over the years, over the years, what you want to do is make sure that there is some obligation, and to strengthen the legislation to ensure that the parent that is not making those payments is forced to make the payments as often and as regular as they can. And I was quite pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the rate for some of the collection of those child support payments from the spouse that has custody of the children is at 91 per cent. So obviously I think the office that's enforcing the maintenance order is doing a remarkable job in trying to make sure that the parents do not skip out on their obligations, and that they're able to do all they can to either voluntarily work with the family or the member that's supposed to be making these payments, or to force them to make those payments through various measures.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I would point out is that on Bill 103, that obviously before this, you couldn't get your driver's licence if you had an outstanding child support payment in the province of Saskatchewan, that a lot of times they wouldn't renew your licence if you had a number of payments that you're missing for the child enforcement order. And one of the things that's important, Mr. Speaker — child support enforcement orders rather — one of the things that's important is that you want to make sure that you force some of these parents that do not want to pay up, that there has to be mechanisms to force them to pay. Now what this government is doing with this particular bill, Bill 103, it gives them another tool to go after the parents who do not pay their child support, as the minister

spoke about, and now they won't give them a hunting licence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think what I want to point out is that we obviously are going to be very supportive, as our leader indicated from time to time, is that we need to support things that make sense, things that support the family, things that support the continuing growth of Saskatchewan, things that recognize the senior care issue, things that recognize the challenges within education, within the health care. If there are things that are being done properly by this government, our leader has clearly instructed us to be supportive of those measures because in the long run, Saskatchewan families win.

And I think that some of the things that we want to do as an opposition is to make sure that people are consulted and that the value of some of these programs are intended to go to the families that need the help the most, and in this case the families of parents that may not be paying child support to the successful parent that has the custody of the children.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think what's important now is that under Bill 103, they had their enforcement orders, whether it's to the income tax process, some of the parents that weren't paying up for the child support couldn't get their driver's licence. And now the Bill 103 that's being brought forward now is talking about telling some of these parents that aren't making their payments, or aren't meeting their obligation to the children, that you now can't get a hunting licence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, whatever effort is there to strengthen the families and provide as many support mechanisms for the children who are going through a family breakup, we obviously support. Why wouldn't we do some of the things that is necessary to strengthen our families? So I think some of the intent of this is to hold those family members that are not meeting their obligations on a financial basis to the children that they may no longer have in their custody, we need to hold them to account. And certainly there are measures out there, and we need to continue seeing the support mechanisms to make sure that the 91 per cent success rate at recovering some of the support payments that are needed for the families, we want to see that continue. We want to see it get better and stronger for the kids that are being impacted by separation, divorce, or whatever the case might be.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that when you look at some of the issues that we're dealing with when it comes to hunting licences, now obviously, on our side of the Assembly, parents that aren't meeting their obligations shouldn't be getting a licence. I think that goes without saying and as I've said here on a couple of occasions. But what's happening right now throughout the whole province, Mr. Speaker, is this government is boondoggled when they made the Tennessee-based company begin to issue our hunting licences.

Now obviously I don't know . . . I'm sure that the government has consulted with the Privacy Commissioner in terms of corroborating the evidence if there is a parent out there not meeting his or her obligation, that is there information being shared with that Tennessee-based company that this government contracted to do up the hunting licences? Is there corroboration on that front? Well we don't know that, Mr. Speaker, so maybe somebody could inadvertently get a hunting

licence even though they may be in arrears for their child support payments because there isn't that collaboration by the government. I would hope, I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that two things would happen, is that there is that collaboration and secondly that the Privacy and Information Commissioner has been a big part, an integral part of the discussions with the government because obviously there is another company in another country that's issuing hunting licences and does that add to the logistical challenges of this bill?

And that's kind of what our role is in the official opposition, is to ask those questions and to certainly to try and get the people in Saskatchewanland to give us some of the questions that they may have. Now obviously we know from our perspective that, from our involvement, that people are very, very upset. People that want to see hunting and fishing actually increase, a lot of them are very, very upset that we've seen the changeover from some of the local, small businesses that used to be able to issue hunting licences and fishing licences. And some of the offices and the co-ops and the gas stations that used to be able to sell licences, these organizations are upset because this government has chosen in their limited wisdom to contract out that service to a company from Tennessee.

And then they come along with this particular bill, Bill 103, saying, look, we're not going to give those guys that are missing their child support the opportunity to be able to hunt. And people at the outset will say, sure that sounds like a good idea because we obviously want to make sure that those that aren't meeting their obligations are meeting their obligations. But the problem is it's not just those guys that can't get their fishing licence or hunting licence. There's a great many other people in our province that can't access the services to get a fishing or a hunting licence, and that's because the government has outsourced that particular process to a company out of Tennessee.

So it's not common sense, not common sense from our perspective, and this is exactly our point in opposition. I mentioned earlier about our leader indicating that where it makes sense, we should be supportive of the government. Where it doesn't make sense, we need hold them to account, and we need to tell the people of Saskatchewan what they're doing wrong.

So on this particular bill, going after parents who are not meeting their obligation for child support payments by denying them a hunting licence is probably the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker. It's probably the right thing to do. But what these guys are doing wrong, the current government, is that they're denying a lot of other people hunting licences because they agreed to contract this service of issuing licences to a Tennessee-based company. Now does that make any sense, Mr. Speaker? Absolutely not.

So again from our point, on one hand we see them doing something that may be valuable to strengthening families but on the other hand they do actions like contracting out to a Tennessee-based company for issuing hunting licences, which many people in Saskatchewan are absolutely upset about and very angry about.

Now we know that in the province, whether it's the Wildlife

Federation, whether it's different rural groups, or even northern Aboriginal people, they are trying to support and promote hunting in a safe, safe way. And they know that a number of younger people are not participating in hunting like they used to in the older days, Mr. Speaker. We all know that trend is going downward. So we obviously want to encourage more young people to handle firearms safely, but to be able to hunt safely, and to encourage that kind of lifestyle because many, many young people would need those skills certainly I think in the future when it comes to providing for their family off the land. So I think a lot of people overall are very supportive of the notion of encouraging young people to take up hunting as long as it's responsible, it's legal, and it's safe.

Now what's happening on this particular bill is that those that are doing it properly but aren't paying their child support payments, well we need to catch those guys and make sure it's done properly. But those that might be able to slip through the cracks because the company that's issuing hunting licences are coming out of Tennessee and . . . Is there a problem in making sure that we hold groups to account that aren't making those child support payments, to deny them the hunting licence, when a company in the heartland of the US [United States] is handing out these hunting licences?

And, Mr. Speaker, I think the business people that had the ability to hand out hunting licences in the past were doing a good job. They were supporting and promoting hunting. They were doing it safely. The people that were issuing hunting licences and permits were doing a very responsible job of doing that. And the government comes along and says, well thank you for all your service, but we're now going to get a company out of the States to do that. It's all going to be online. And our question is, with this particular bill, are you able to catch those that may be applying under their names without making their child support payment obligations? Can they actually sneak through the system? And from our perspective these are some of the things we have to question, challenge, and to watch.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, there's a lot of things we want to talk about when it comes to this bill. We're asking folks that have any advice, asking folks that may want to have some input on this particular bill what they think is in some of the issues that need to be raised because our job as the official opposition is to hold the government to account, and we invite those comments.

So again there's a number of my colleagues that are going to be speaking on this bill, and we will certainly take the next two or three months to research it and to talk to people out there and bring back some common sense solutions. If there are some solutions in there that are worthy . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that the intended target of this bill is those people that are not meeting their child support payments, not the people that really want the licence, a hunting licence to develop their hunting skills. And I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, as a result of their decision to relocate that service to Tennessee, that many of our families that want to responsibly hunt are being denied the accessibility to buy a permit locally, an opportunity had before until the Sask Party government messed that up.

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

Bill 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 104 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013***

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*. Mr. Speaker, the sole purpose of this bill is to make an English-only consequential amendment to *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994*. That is necessary on account of the provisions of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*, which is a bilingual bill.

This amendment adds a section to the fisheries Act, 1994 that will require the Minister of the Environment to publish . . . or to prohibit a person from applying for or obtaining an angling licence where directed by the maintenance enforcement office. This action will only be taken where the individual is in arrears on a registered support order by at least three months. The direction to the Minister of the Environment would only be provided after other enforcement actions aimed at the financial resources of the individual prove unsuccessful. Additionally the individual would be provided a 30-day notice prior to the enforcement activity.

Mr. Speaker, this new enforcement tool will assist the maintenance enforcement office in its mandate to collect support payments for children and families. So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*.

[16:15]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I once again want to stand on behalf of the official opposition and give our brief explanation of this particular bill and to point out that this bill is much similar to the previous bill in relation to hunting licences, and now they're expanding it to fishing licences. So generally from both bills that folks that aren't making their maintenance payments on a child enforcement payment obligation, that they're now going to have difficulty in getting their fishing licences and their hunting licences, Mr. Speaker.

And as I mentioned on the previous bill, from our perspective, as our leader has indicated that it's important that we support the bills that make sense, but we've also got to make sure that we hold the government to account. And once again we're seeing evidence that this particular government has not done enough consultation on a couple of fronts, not so much on the child enforcement orders in terms of what the bill's intending to do, because we agree that those parents — as I said time and time again — those parents that don't meet their obligation for child maintenance ought to be tracked down and that 91 per cent of the enforcement rate of tracking down parents that aren't meeting the obligation is something that we as a province should be proud of, but a need to move that number up to 95, to 99, and hopefully to 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

And we think that some of the bills to deny some of those parents that aren't meeting their obligations fishing licences and hunting licences can indeed help. They can indeed help, because obviously there may be parents out there that are avid fishermen or avid hunters, and that if they're not meeting their obligation they could be denied the right to hunt and fish.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of people in northern Saskatchewan. This is why it's important that we take a special interest in this particular bill as well, because we need to find out who they've consulted. Have they consulted the Outfitters Association? Does this affect the Outfitters Association? We don't have that information, Mr. Speaker.

So if we have an outfitter that may have had a separation from his or her spouse, and they're given an outfitting licence, does that affect the outfitter? Because the outfitter could be a hunter. It could be a fisherman. How about the commercial fishing industry, Mr. Speaker? Does that affect the commercial fishing industry? If we have a particular member that could be involved with both industries, whether it's wild rice and hunting and fishing, that could be where their income is derived from. Now if they have an outstanding child maintenance order, are we now denying them the ability to fish, to hunt, and to live off the land from that perspective?

And that's why I think it's important, this bill and the bill previously, that you have to take the time to consult. And that's why I am asking my colleagues after I'm done my initial discussion on this bill and the previous bill, that we've got to make sure we contact organizations out there like the Outfitters Association to say, how does this bill affect your members?

We want to do the responsible thing. We're not taking our eye off the target here in the sense of making sure that parents out there that aren't meeting their obligations, do meet their obligations. And I want to say that a number of times, so the Sask Party doesn't misrepresent what we're saying.

We are saying that there ought to be every effort to go after those parents that aren't meeting their obligation. Denying them a fishing licence and a hunting licence may be good proactive steps, but we have to make sure that the intended targets are the ones we're hitting and not hurting a wide variety or a bigger industry than what we hope to do on this bill and the previous bill.

That's some of the things that we have, as the official

opposition, the right to do, Mr. Speaker, is to hold this government to account in some of these bills that they're bringing forward.

Now the question I'm going to ask the minister on this particular bill at the initial outset and his explanation of this bill: does that affect the commercial fishing industry? Obviously we would assume that the sport fishing industry is also involved. Does that affect the outfitting industry in terms of the licence to hunt, a licence to fish, and to trap? These are some of the questions that we have to ask the minister at the outset. And while this bill is introduced at this fall sitting, I want to tell the people that are back home, this bill is being introduced this month and it'll be passed probably in May or earlier than that in 2014. So it gives us a few months. That's basically my point. It gives us a few months for us to go out there and talk with different groups and organizations that may be impacted.

So to those in northern Saskatchewan and to those in southern Saskatchewan who make a living, who make a living on fishing or trapping or hunting, we have to make sure that they know this particular bill, Bill 104, which the bill is all about going after parents who are not meeting their child support payments. I don't think anybody could defend those parents because it's difficult to defend parents. We know the difficulty of going through the separation is traumatic enough for the kids, but we still have to find the ways and means in which the children are cared for. And that's kind of what the focus of any bill on this front should be.

But is this bill going to hurt their ability to earn income? That's the big question I have, Mr. Speaker, on any of these bills that the Sask Party government is bringing forward. And those that have typically earned a living all their lives, I know many people that fish and trap and hunt; they sustain their families and many times, Mr. Speaker, you have extended family. If you go through a separation, you find another spouse and then you have children with that spouse and that goes on. And then the big question always comes into play, which children should be cared for properly and which children . . . How should you divide up the income of a parent when they have two or three children from a couple of partners?

And that's kind of what the question I have as well, Mr. Speaker, in this bill. That if you have a parent, whether it be the mother or the father and they have this child or a couple of children and then they have a separation, and then the mom or the dad leaves and then they separate and they find their own partners later on in life, and then as you find another partner then you have children with that partner, and then where does the first family versus the second family rights begin to intersect? Is there a lot of friction? Is there a lot of argument there?

I don't know that answer, Mr. Speaker. That's why some of these bills are so important. All I know is that the current bill we're dealing with, Bill 104, really has . . . The big question is that if you have arrears in the child maintenance enforcement office, that this government is now saying that they're going to deny you the right to hunt and to fish by not giving you the licences that are required for that.

And we need to know, we need to know, does this affect the commercial fishing industry? Does this affect outfitting? And how much? How many people out there are impacted by this bill? We don't have that information. So we encourage people to participate. We encourage people to contact our office and we encourage people to go online or to email a letter or to fax a letter and give us all this information so we can ask the appropriate questions of the minister and of this government on this bill. That's the important part of democracy.

As I mentioned at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that we want to see as many people participating in this consultation process because they've only got three or four months at the outset before the government proclaims this bill as law. And that's why they're presenting this bill this fall.

So I think my colleagues will have a lot of questions on this particular bill. As I mentioned, who did they consult with? How many people that do have a licence is based on their history? They have a lot of information, the government does. So if they have 15 or 20 per cent of those that have hunting licences and fishing licences that have child maintenance enforcement order problems, we need to have that information in front of us. And that's the crucial information that the official opposition needs as we go through some of these bills.

So a lot of questions, a lot more questions on consultation. And, Mr. Speaker, on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 104.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### **Bill No. 105 — *The Informal Public Appeals Act***

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Informal Public Appeals Act*.

The people of Saskatchewan have a long and proud history of rallying together to assist those in communities who need a helping hand. This was true in the pioneer days and continues today in the new Saskatchewan.

Members of this Assembly will know that informal appeals to the public for donations are made on a regular basis. Unlike campaigns by established organizations, spontaneous appeals are usually initiated by private individuals without first obtaining legal advice. Mr. Speaker, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* is intended to facilitate and enhance this practice by addressing some of the unintended consequences that can arise for well-intentioned members of the public.

In 2011 the Uniform Law Conference of Canada recommended

that *The Uniform Informal Public Appeals Act* be adopted by Canadian jurisdictions to govern the operation of such appeals. *The Informal Public Appeals Act* is based on that uniform Act. This Act addresses spontaneous appeals made to the public, for example after a fire or flood, or to assist a bereaved family with future education costs. It does not address professional fundraising by established charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* will define public appeal for the purpose of the Act to limit the scope to sporadic and informal appeals, confirm that funds raised through a public appeal are held in trust, and establish a default scheme that will apply only where a public appeal is not regulated under legislation or a formally created trust.

It will establish a mechanism for disposal of surplus funds or an ability to provide refunds where needed. It will create a power for the courts to direct the application of surplus funds. It will set out the powers and duties of trustees, including investment of funds, further public appeals, and the transfer of funds to another body. And it will provide for regulatory authority to set out user-friendly forms with examples to be used by members of the public.

This bill is careful not to create hurdles for those with good intentions. Individuals who choose not to use the forms to establish a public appeal can proceed without them. The bill will still protect these people, but to a lesser extent.

Rather than hurdles, Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to remove the traps that have evolved so that the well-meaning trustees who commence an appeal are not made victims of their own good intentions. These forms will be available online and we plan to make them broadly available through local lenders and other community locations.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a community made up of people that have shown time and time again that they will step up to help each other. This bill was intended to ensure that they can continue to do so without risking unintended consequences for their good will.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Informal Public Appeals Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased to stand today again to talk about Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act*. And just to explain to the public what *The Informal Public Appeals Act*, as indicated by the minister, is the government is now going to be monitoring how fundraising happens on a local basis for those families that are going through, as the minister made reference to, a fire loss or flood or bereavement, or in many cases you have different groups and organizations that'll help a family fundraise for medical support.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister I think spoke a bit of confusing messaging in terms of the mechanism to deliver public funds;

they're not intended to create hurdles; the court can adjudicate any leftover funds. Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the public in general that this bill is really addressing all the local fundraising that can occur throughout all the province of Saskatchewan, and trying to put more regulations and trying to put more hurdles, in my opinion, to try and stop and curtail some of the help that local families want to offer a particular person or a particular family that may be going through some difficult times.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of trying to make sure that people understand what this bill is going to involve, I'm certainly calling it that when people fundraise locally to help a local family or a local person, this government wants to do more monitoring and have more control over that avenue or that venue of support that many of these families offer each other.

[16:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that when I travel into this Assembly, I drive through Kenaston. And the one time Kenaston had a really big . . . They called it the super draft in which they had entries from all over the world, literally all over the world, that entered these drafts, these hockey drafts to try and claim a top prize. And the prize money was good, Mr. Speaker, and Kenaston should be commended for that because Kenaston was raising great revenues, was raising great revenues from this draft.

And obviously as time went on, we began embarking as the government of the day, we began embarking on a process to try and put gaming into a framework to make sure it was properly done and that there was some accountability to the province and to the government overall because of the gaming agreements that were initiated with a number of casinos, First Nations and non-First Nations throughout the province that wanted to formalize gaming agreements. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that a number of Sask Party members were complaining bitterly about that in terms of the government interfering with local fundraising and that is not the way to go and on and on and on.

And now, Mr. Speaker, they have become government. And now they are going to put a new rule into place. Now we're not only going to make sure that we monitor you when it comes to the gaming, we're going to take it a step further. What the Sask Party is saying, the Sask Party's going to take it a step further, saying all fundraising locally — for local causes, for helping families through fire, through flood, through bereavement, through illness, all that initiative to try and help these different families — the government wants to formalize that process now. And they're even talking about, in this particular bill, mechanisms to protect public funds. They're talking about court-ordered delivery of, or court-ordered determination of how some of these funds would be used as well.

So I think a lot of organizations out there in the province of Saskatchewan, they ought to know that your work and your hard, hard work and good intentions to help a local family is now going to be monitored by the government of Saskatchewan through this bill, and that the government of Saskatchewan will determine how much you're allowed to give that family. And that if they have to go through the court system, they'll go through the court system to make sure that any residual money

that you have left will be spent as they deem fit, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think anybody in the province of Saskatchewan has asked the Sask Party government to get involved, nor to interfere in local fundraising to help local families. And that's what this bill impacts, Mr. Speaker.

We're all about responsibility. Obviously it makes sense to be responsible in the province of Saskatchewan. But there's a little bit too much intrusion at times when the Sask Party . . . when it comes to fundraising and gaming in the province. And it's another example, Mr. Speaker, of how they've taken the good intentions of Saskatchewan people — and they complained about this bitterly in the past — they've taken the good intentions of Saskatchewan families, Saskatchewan communities in helping a local family or a local person with supports, how they want to then have that all reported. And they want to be able to control that, Mr. Speaker. What's going to happen is you're going to stop that activity because people will get frustrated, and many families will be left on their own. So I would point out that there is a lot of issues, there is a lot of issues on this bill that we in the opposition want to talk about.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's no question that the minister spoke about the goodwill and the hard work and the good intentions of Saskatchewan people. We see evidence of that all throughout our communities and our constituencies: the fundraising going on, the bake sales, the auctions. All these activities, Mr. Speaker, many, many towns and groups and villages do these kind of activities. They do it on one thing, it's to help a family through some trying times. Through some trying times, they do this to help a family. And now this government, through this bill, want to begin to monitor that, have that activity reported. And if there's any residual money left over from what they determine should be going to that family or to that individual, through the courts then they will determine how that money will be spent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a bit too much when it comes to interfering with Saskatchewan's well- and good-intended groups and organizations that are out there. So if you're sitting at home watching this and you probably know, you probably know that there is some activity happening in your community or some activity happening next week or in a couple of days or you're going to go there and you're going to help support a family in need. I think Saskatchewan families and Saskatchewan people overall have been renowned for not only volunteering but for donating, for going out there and making a difference in their community. This bill is beginning to interfere with that process, in my opinion.

Again, we're all for accountability, but there's nobody out there that is ripping off the process. There's nobody out there that is making money off other people's misery. So why is the government all of a sudden deciding that they want to be a big brother and interfere and come in there and start monitoring and start fighting over local fundraised dollars, Mr. Speaker? I don't understand what the intention of that is. And I think quite frankly the people of Saskatchewan, as we begin to look at this bill more and more and more, I think from our perspective as the NDP opposition, they should leave those families and those organizations and those communities alone when they begin to help themselves.

If they're helping themselves and they're helping one of their own citizens or one of their own families, then leave that alone. Don't go in there and be a big brother and insist on these forms being filled out, and then if there's any money left over, start fighting with them in the court system over some of those local fundraising dollars. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is way too much. It's over the top. And I'm going to make sure that different organizations and different families and different people out there and different communities are aware that this is what the government has intended and this is their plan of action, Mr. Speaker.

So this bill, the question I have for the minister is, did they do proper consultation? Did they actually consult with different groups and organizations on this bill to get a good read, to get a good read as to how they felt about this particular bill? And who did they consult with? When did they consult with these groups? And did they get those groups' support on this bill? Because as I mentioned at the outset, consultation is one thing, but agreement is a totally different thing, Mr. Speaker. When this government says they consult, we on this side of the Assembly don't listen to any of that foolishness because we know that they never consult. They say they consult and then they do what they want, Mr. Speaker, despite the protests of some of the groups that they consult with. And Mr. Speaker, that's why we say, in opposition, we've got to know who the government consulted on this bill and whether these groups really endorse what they're trying to do.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there's thousands of groups in rural, northern, and urban Saskatchewan that do a great amount of work. And there'll be a lot of groups that will not be happy with the Saskatchewan Party government that's going to start making them fill out forms and start fighting over some of the fundraising dollars that they're intending to help a local person or a local family.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, when you have a consultation — this is what's really important, I tell a lot of people in my constituency — when you talk about consultation, there's a significant legal difference when governments say we consulted with so and so versus them saying we consulted with this group and the group agreed. You see the difference, Mr. Speaker? Because I know a lot of people don't deviate the difference.

Because generally when the government says they consult, they want people to be impressed that, okay, they went to consult with these four groups so these four groups must be supportive of what they want to do. That's not the case, Mr. Speaker. That's why the government uses the word, we consulted. They never use the word, we consulted and these four groups agreed. You'll never see that particular wording, Mr. Speaker, in some of their language because, quite frankly from our perspective, we see that this government doesn't consult. They are very dismissive of some of the concerns of the people of Saskatchewan.

And they do a lot of secretive deals that people of Saskatchewan ought to know about, Mr. Speaker. We have been seeing this particular government hide a lot of facts. They have been hiding a lot of information from the people of Saskatchewan. And as I said at the outset, they're being very

secretive and dismissive. And that's very unfortunate, it's very unfortunate for the people of Saskatchewan because we've got to be able to know what this government's up to. And when they dismiss our concerns, when they dismiss many of the groups' and organizations' concerns out there, Mr. Speaker, that creates a lot of animosity, it creates a lot of anger, and it creates a lot of confusion.

And the big question is, why wouldn't the government at least afford the people the decency to participate in discussions on this particular bill when it talks about helping families locally by fundraising locally? And this is exactly our point in opposition, that we need to hold this government to account.

Now Bill 105 . . . And I wanted to explain to the families out there, and I think the minister indicated that there are forms online, if I'm to be corrected. There are forms online now. So if you have a local family or a local person that may have needed some help recently — whether it's a fire loss or whether it's a health concern or whether it's just generally a lot of suffering for that particular person or that particular family — and you want to help out. And I tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of thousands of people in Saskatchewan that would gladly help out some of these families. Now they're required to fill out these forms that the minister says you can get them online. Why in the heck would you do that? Why in the world would you put another process in front of these organizations that they've got to fill out a form to be able to help one of their own? It just doesn't make any sense at all, Mr. Speaker.

And these are the same guys that were bellyaching and complaining about a gaming agreement that the NDP put in place to rationalize all the gaming in the province, Mr. Speaker. And they're complaining about the half a billion dollars made to SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] when the gaming industry was regulated and that we did bring in the non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal groups all together to develop the gaming framework.

Yes, there was a few fights here and there, Mr. Speaker, no question about that. But this government, when they were in opposition, they were complaining about that. Now they're in government, now they're trying to put in place more regulations, more forms, more forms, more interference, and more obstacles for local people fundraising for one of their own, and that person or that family has trouble health-wise or losing a family home or, worse, the sudden tragic death.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of communities, a lot of groups and organizations really help out their own. They really help out their own and they do their part. They do their part, and all of a sudden the government isn't helping them on a number of things. We see this happen all the time. Some of these communities are left on their own. And I can tell you that governments don't do a lot to help some of these organizations and groups out there, Mr. Speaker. They literally fund raise on their own, and they help each other with what they have.

And that goes back to my earlier point, Mr. Speaker, is that people that operate these fundraisers are the salt of the earth. They're the base of our community. They're the ones that strengthen our families, that strengthen our community. These

are the ones that go above and beyond their own needs. They don't just look at their own family needs; they go above and beyond that. And these people that run these fundraisers are legally minded people. They're honest people. It's for a good purpose. Now all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, we have a government that's saying, well we want more information. We want . . . You guys fill out this form, and if you guys make too much for health treatments, we want to be able to determine what is too much.

And then there's an argument over what you fund raise versus what is needed. We're going to claw that money back. And if you don't want to give us that money voluntarily, we're going to go to court. And that's exactly what this bill is.

And I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan did not want this bill. They did not want this bill where you're interfering with local fundraising. Yes, they want to make sure that people aren't doing this dishonestly, but people aren't — the vast, vast majority of people.

I've yet to hear of families and organizations that are doing this illegally, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely every group has a legitimate case. Absolutely every group that I've bumped into that's trying to help local families, the money goes to the local families and they use it wisely. And yet this government's insisting that there are more, more processes and hurdles and obstacles that they need to put up to curtail that kind of support that these Saskatchewan families are offering to each other.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot questions we have on this bill, a lot of questions. We want to know what their plan is. We're going to let the public know. We want to know who they consulted and got agreement from for this bill, not just consult but agreement from. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to take the several next few months to ask the groups and organizations out there . . . that this is going to affect you. This is going to impact you. You've got to let the Saskatchewan Party government know that any interference, any obstacles, any fight over local fundraising for helping families or an individual who went through a crisis, they are now going to be in your face asking all these questions because they don't believe for one minute that all the work that you're doing is work that is valued and proper.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of concern on this particular bill, and I'm sure we'll hear those concerns. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 105, the informal public appeals bill, in which they want to see forms and documentation from all local fundraising submitted to them, the fundraising that local people do to help families that may be going through some tough and trying times. Thank you.

[16:45]

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 106 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013***

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*. Mr. Speaker, this bill is proposed at the request of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. These amendments will accomplish several things.

First they will add a provision clarifying that in regulating the profession, the public interest is paramount over the interests of members being disciplined. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the society is being given more control over the number of elected members on its council to accommodate demographic changes and improve governance. The society is given the authority to regulate law firms as well as individual members.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of amendments to provide the society with the ability to recruit persons who are not members of council or lawyers to assist with investigations and hearings. This is designed to increase flexibility and avoid delays in proceedings. Mr. Speaker, we are proposing changes to the way that appeals are conducted from decisions respecting admissions of lawyers into the practice. Instead of an appeal to the full council of benchers, an appeal will be to a smaller panel known as the admissions panel. This will result in timelier decision making.

The legislative time limit for issuing discipline decisions is being removed to permit flexibility. The time period of 45 days may be difficult to achieve in complex cases. The common law rules of natural justice require the decision to be delivered in a reasonable amount of time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the statutory exemption from liability for good faith decisions is being extended to the Law Foundation and members of the Law Foundation to help encourage volunteers to undertake this very worthwhile activity. Mr. Speaker, there are also several changes in the rule-making power of the society.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to move second reading of *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm very pleased to be able to stand up and speak about this particular bill. And I know that in our caucus we have two or three lawyers that will be looking at this bill and to see exactly the impact it may have on their profession.

Obviously the Bill 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act* as was indicated, that there's a number of issues that are made to clean up the language and to certainly look at things like allowing members from different backgrounds to be more representative on the board, to look at how they can recruit members at large, and to also indicate the appeals for lawyers to



become part of the, I'm assuming, the Saskatchewan bar and in this case the admissions panel. And it talks about good faith provisions and so on and so forth.

So I think that Bill 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*, is something that we want to pay very close attention to as an opposition. And I'm sure my lawyer colleagues will have a lot more to say on this bill because they obviously have more of an impact, more involvement with the legal profession. And they will have a greater insight, Mr. Speaker, from their perspective as to what the changes are on this particular bill.

We again want to make sure that I point out to folks that in the fall sitting as we sit here, the government's role is to introduce some of their bills and some of the changes that they want on these bills. And I spoke to a number of bills already. And then what the process is, after they introduce the bills, we then have a break in a couple of weeks. Then we go back to our groups and back to our constituencies and back to organizations and ask and seek advice on these bills. And then of course, come March, we're back in the Assembly and then we start going through second, third, and finally we start proclaiming some of these bills as we finish off the spring sitting.

So what it does, it introduces the bills and then we take the time to consult with groups. And then the government of course wants to bring these bills into law in the spring, and that gives us time for us to consult with different groups and different organizations out there.

So I think it's important that we note to the people out there that may have an interest, the lawyers or the paralegals or people that are just involved with the court process, that we need you to participate in this because obviously we want to ensure that the government is to be held to account. And we obviously appreciate any kind of help to again to make sure the government is accountable for some of their activity. We want to make sure that when they make mistakes that we hold them to their mistakes. And anything that may make common sense, that is common sense for the people of Saskatchewan, we want to see put through the Assembly as quickly as possible so we can get on with the real fights of some of their mess-ups.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, we have seen a steady trend, a practice by this government to be secretive, to be dismissive, and to not do proper consultation and agreement with different groups. We want to find out where they are failing, Mr. Speaker. And we're finding a number of examples of that.

So this bill, Bill 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*, we obviously, we hear from the minister that they have some consultation. But we want to also talk to the Law Society, or have our members speak to the appropriate representative on this society to see what they think of the changes, to see if the changes are indicative of what they want, and receptive to the public. And what does that all mean?

The one section I think is really important, Mr. Speaker, is I think there's . . . well actually two parts that I want to pay a bit of attention to. One is to allowing members from different backgrounds to give a more representative view of the Law Society members out there. We think that that's certainly something that should be advantageous overall because you

look at the different make-ups of different boards in the province: you do want to see gender parity, you do want to see diversity, and you also want to see all kinds of groups and organizations involved. There's nothing wrong with that, Mr. Speaker. And we want to make sure that that's offered to a lot of different organizations and backgrounds and people generally to make sure that they're fair.

The other thing that seems important is the admissions panel. Who decides who becomes part of that admissions panel? Does the government decide on their own or is it totally the Law Society's practice for them to determine who is on the admissions panel? Now I'm assuming the admissions panel are the ones that will allow a lawyer to operate within a certain jurisdiction or within that Law Society's mandate area. But who picks these particular panel members? This is something that we obviously need to know and we need to find out.

Mr. Speaker, also the good faith provisions, what particular measure is that all about? We will need to find out what is intended by the good faith provision in this particular bill. Was there some problem that occurred and that this is intended to fix up? Is it more of a language issue? Where did the good faith section of the bill come from? We need to find that out and see whether there's any underlying problems or anything that the Sask Party's trying to sneak through or trying to hide, Mr. Speaker.

This is important that we do that, and as I said at the outset, from our perspective where it makes sense for the continued growth and strengthening of Saskatchewan's economy and families and people in our province, we will be very supportive, Mr. Speaker. Why wouldn't we be supportive?

And the second thing is where the government is making mistakes and errors, we need to point that out. That is our job in opposition, and we relish that role because this government is making many, many mistakes.

So whether it's on Bill 106 or any other bill that comes forward to the Assembly, we are going to take the time to make sure we research that bill and find out exactly what is in that bill and all the provisions that are in there. We've got to make sure we study them and we have collaboration from the players that are involved with that bill or the people that they're intending to impact with that bill to make sure that they indeed support that.

So I'll tell the people of Saskatchewan that this Bill 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*, no matter how mundane a bill may appear by this government, we in the opposition are going to pay very close attention to that bill. We're going to try and see if they're trying to sneak something through, Mr. Speaker, because in our experience with this particular government, we have seen this government being very secretive and being very dismissive of some of the issues and concerns that people have brought forward to them. And that's why it's important we take the time to study these bills.

And, Mr. Speaker, also consultation. We mention that on every occasion. And when you have consultation . . . And this is where I think lawyers are excellent at explaining these things to people. And I'm not a lawyer, Mr. Speaker. I'm just a hockey player. But from my perspective I would point out that there is

a significant difference, a significant legal difference between consultation and agreement. And, Mr. Speaker, this is kind of where it's important on some of these bills when they said, well they consulted with all the appropriate parties. And we on this side say, well the appropriate parties . . . Can we have a list of who you consulted with? And the appropriate parties you're talking about, did they agree with the changes to this bill? We need to know that for sure.

And then not only do they, the government, says yes, they've agreed. We're going to check with those organizations and different groups that are involved to see if they did agree, because we don't really trust this government based on some of their past practices for the last couple of months of trying to twist the truth and trying to misrepresent a lot of different groups and organizations and trying to manage the people that are involved with these issues as opposed to addressing the issues, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen that practice occur on a regular, continual basis by this government, and that's why from the official opposition there is no trust on any bill they bring forward, no matter how mundane the bill appears to be or how minor the bill changes appear to be, Mr. Speaker. We're going to make sure that we hold this government to account on every single change on every single bill that they bring forward, and something that we as the official opposition have made a commitment to do so, Mr. Speaker.

So there's a lot of issues on this particular bill that I want to talk about. There are things that I'm sure that members on my side of the Assembly, especially my legal learned friends, would have more of experience on. But there are things that we are concerned about on this bill. I mentioned at the outset that we're taking the time that is necessary to study the bill, research the bill, do the consultation, and get agreement from the groups that are being impacted by this bill. That's a significant difference from the official opposition.

And if there are some challenges to the bill — say there's some lawyers or group of lawyers that don't like some of the changes to this bill or see a problem with this bill — then we in the opposition, our job is to get up and tell the government, you're doing something wrong on this bill. And this is what you're doing wrong, so you either fix it or we're going to hold you to account to the process of the Assembly or through the media or through our own campaigns to make sure you fight back and tell the people of Saskatchewan that they can fight back when it comes to the government that's being secretive, that's being dismissive, that's being arrogant at times, and not paying the proper respect to this Legislative Assembly and to the people of Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Speaker, is going to undo a lot of support that they had in the past because people are getting tired of some of their actions and some of their activity.

So Bill 106 has a number of changes to it. We want to find out what those changes are. We're going to take the adequate time, as I mentioned at the outset, and we're going to make sure, we're going to make sure that people know that they do have the opportunity to come involve themselves with this bill or any of the other bills that we spoke about earlier, and to tell them that this is a free, democratic society, that you have the right to voice your opinion, to present your views, and to participate in

this whole process called the Legislative Assembly. So that offer is there, Mr. Speaker. We will take our time to make sure that people are consulted.

And on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*. And I so move.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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



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