



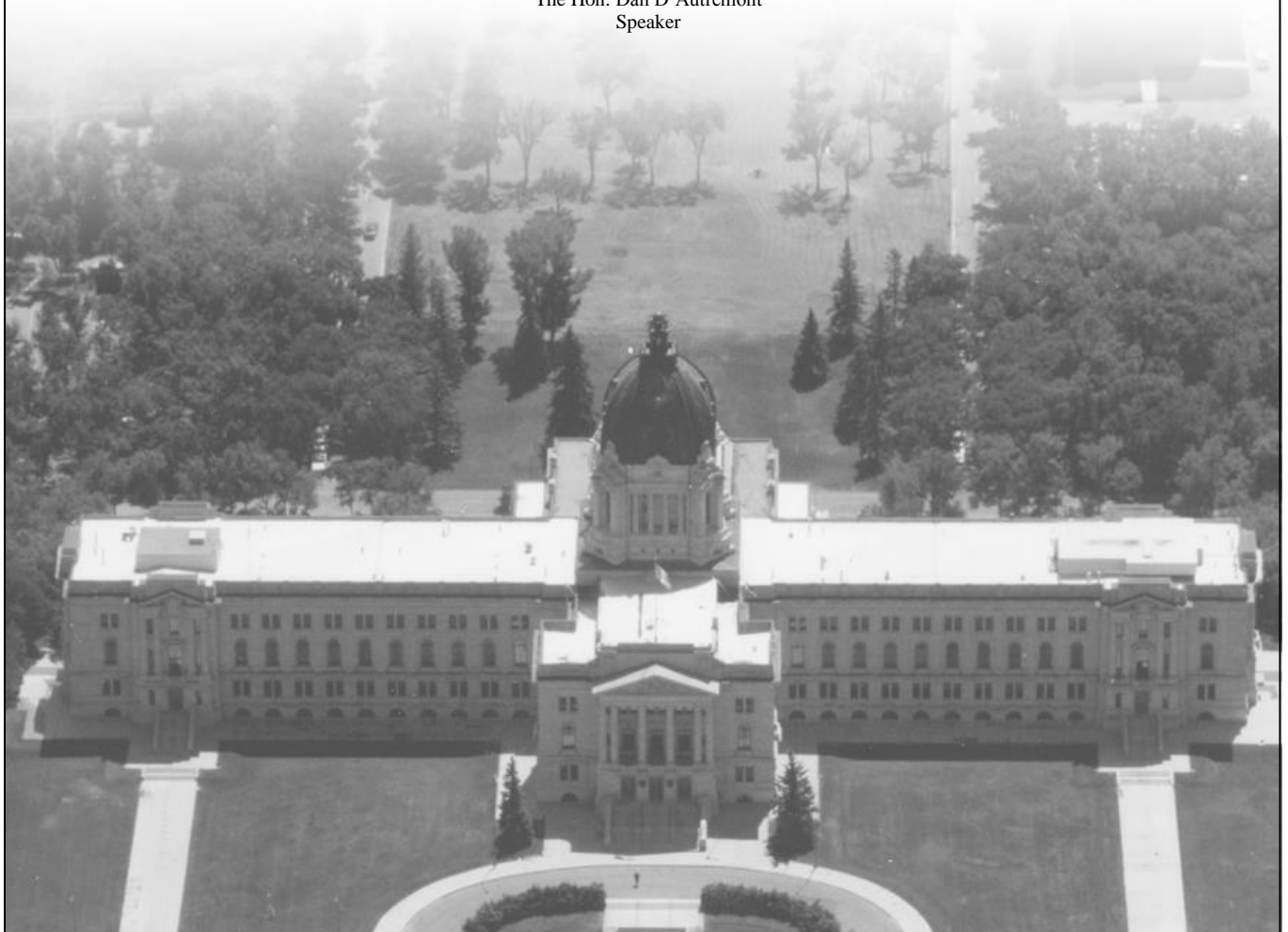
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



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Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

The Speaker: — It now being 7 o'clock, the Assembly is resumed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 118

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 118** — *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I appreciate the . . . It's always a little livelier when you start back into the evening sitting and I appreciate the words of encouragement opposite.

It's a pleasure to enter into discussion as it relates to Bill No. 118, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*. This Act, as I've read through it at first glance and had some brief conversations with some of the sector on this front, is something that is seeming to be embraced within the sector, seems to make sense on a lot of fronts. There's some practical changes that come with this Act and a few others. Certainly we'll continue to consult as it relates to these changes with the sector.

But it's worth noting that these changes relate directly back to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. And of course SIAST has a long, proud history in Saskatchewan and one that I'd like to recognize, be thankful for. And certainly this allows that role to continue to evolve, allows SIAST with a new name and with a bit of a changed mandate to continue to serve Saskatchewan for many years forward.

You know, certainly SIAST itself, I always recognize is such a nimble organization. One that listens, I believe, to the needs of the community, listens to economic stakeholders, works well with worker . . . organizations of workers, works really well with businesses. Mr. Speaker, it's a dynamic organization that's responded to needs in our economy and has really equipped many, many Saskatchewan people with the skills they need to enter into a career and to build a life, of course, in our province.

The role of a polytechnic or of a technical education and skills training facility is really important in this province. It's vital to meeting the needs of our labour force. It's critical to meeting the needs of the economy and it's important in meeting the social potential of Saskatchewan people. And certainly the changes that I see here today certainly don't seem to impede the good work of that board and their administration.

I would like to recognize just some of their leadership. They do

have an exceptional board. We meet with their board Chair and with their board members. I'd like to thank them for their service. I'd like to thank the current board for their service to Saskatchewan. I'd also like to thank really all board members present and past for their contributions to our province and in building SIAST to what it has become here in our province.

I'd also like to recognize Dr. Rosia for his leadership to the organization. I'm not sure if he . . . with these changes if he's CEO [chief executive officer] or if he's president. I believe he'd be a president would be the title of the new organization. And certainly he's somebody that will take on that role and continue his service and his leadership in an exceptional way, and something that we should all be thankful for.

The actual changes are sometimes practical in nature. It changes the name from SIAST to Saskatchewan Polytechnic. But in some ways they're broader reaching than that, further reaching than that as well. Polytechnic allows this institution to partner and be a part of an association with polytechnics and to I guess be a part of that group, that organization, and potentially learn from those institutions or to have some shared learning and to have a . . . to be able to operate with certainly a high level of pride and distinction here in Saskatchewan.

There's also some changes, I understand, that would allow the institution, the polytechnic or SIAST, to fundraise for infrastructure requirements, I believe, or for capital needs. And you know, this is something that can definitely make sense, but we also want to make sure that government never abdicates its important role of funding this very important institution and the role and purposes of that education. So we want to make sure that, certainly while it seems to be a common sense solution to allow partnerships and some funding to be able to flow back towards capital funding for infrastructure needs, it's really important that we never forget that government has a critical role to play here.

And when I look at SIAST right now and I think of the future for that polytechnic, it's critical that this government do better listening to the strained realities of space within those facilities. And I know that SIAST has done such an exceptional job of recruiting students all across this province, and graduating students, and those students going directly, I understand at a very high level, into strong earning positions right across this province. But this government hasn't been as supportive as they could be as it relates to the infrastructure needs of that facility. So that's something we'll certainly track. Just the same as we'll be tracking the operating grants and funding for SIAST, or for now the Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

I understand that some of the changes as well will allow for some applied research and scholarly activity. And certainly that would seem to me to be important to that organization, to that institution. It would add to that institution. Certainly we have some general questions for the minister about what this means exactly, and how these changes will impact this institution. But it seems to be positive. And we'll be following up, as I say, with the minister on those fronts.

And importantly we'll be, as an official opposition, continuing to reach out, listen to the voices of the board, the

administration, the faculty, and as well the entire post-secondary sector. And I think of University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan and Gabriel Dumont Technical Institute, and SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies], and Saskatchewan Apprenticeship, as well as our regional colleges — these are some of the important partners in the post-secondary sector that provide opportunity for Saskatchewan students, and build lifelong careers, hopefully here in this province from the skills, from the learning that they've acquired through these institutions.

So our consultation as an opposition will continue. We know that's important. We know that far too often this government rams forward with changes in legislation, where they haven't listened to stakeholders, where they're pushed forward without asking those that are impacted what the impacts will be. And as a result, far too often there's a host of unintended consequences that have been identified by partners in Saskatchewan, stakeholders that are directly affected that should have been heard in the first place by government. We hope that's not the case with this piece of legislation. We see a lot of opportunity in what's being advanced here.

We do want to make sure as this Act is being changed that the scope of considerations and the scope of potential changes are adequate. Because this is a tremendous opportunity when you open up an Act, when you're changing the mandate, when you're changing the name, when you're changing some of the focus, to make sure that this institution has been equipped with all it needs to be as successful as it can be for the benefit of Saskatchewan people well into the future.

So those will be the sorts of questions we'll be engaging with the sector on. And we look forward to further clarification and detail from the minister moving forward. But as I say, I'd like to thank the board of SIAST, the administration at SIAST, Dr. Rosia, and all the faculty and all the students at that impressive institution. We look forward to many more years of success. At this point in time, I adjourn debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 118, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 119

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 119** — *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to follow up to the discussions as it relates to Bill No. 118 to speak to the consequential amendments Bill No. 119. I don't have a whole bunch more to say to this piece of legislation at this point in

time. As I've said, we'll be consulting directly with the sector. We're thankful for the leadership of SIAST. We're thankful for the students. We'll be looking for input. I have read through the minister's comments in introducing this bill. I find it a tad disappointing that he'd choose to use that opportunity as a time to sort of do a partisan attack of sorts. But you know, if that's his approach, so be it.

What I do know is that SIAST has served Saskatchewan people incredibly well, that those that are around SIAST, leading SIAST, are certainly wanting to see its success well into the future. There's some new opportunities that could be realized through the polytechnic status in name and the mandate and some of those opportunities. And certainly we know the importance of this institution to the future of Saskatchewan. And we'll be consulting with all affected stakeholders and working directly with the minister throughout this process to seek clarity where it's needed and make sure that all consequences, intended and unintended, have been contemplated.

At this point in time I adjourn debate for Bill No. 119, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 119, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 120

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 120** — *The Lobbyists Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with considerable interest that I am rising tonight to speak to this bill, Bill 120, *The Lobbyists Act*. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, back just after the election in November of 2011 and the end of the first session there, the Premier decided that it was time for Saskatchewan to have lobbying legislation. And so he asked the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee to take a look at that and come up with a report and make some recommendations. And I was fortunate enough to be chosen as the representative on that committee from our caucus, to be able to be part of those proceedings and part of the inquiry into the prospect of lobbying legislation in Saskatchewan.

And you'll also note, Mr. Speaker, that we filed our final report of the committee on May 16, 2012 after having gone through considerable research. And fortunately enough, we were able to attend some meetings in Ottawa where we, through the organization of the legislative staff, were able to meet with a number of registrars from varying jurisdictions, including the federal lobbyist register and as well as a number of provincial

bodies.

And what had happened, Mr. Speaker, at that time was that the federal government was undergoing its own legislative review of their lobbying legislation, and so various people were being invited to speak to committee about it. And we actually got to sit in on the committee hearings as well. So I think as a committee we were able to garner a lot of information and hear from some very interesting people about lobbying legislation across Canada.

I won't go into a lot of detail on the particulars of what we heard, but I do want to refer members to the report that was filed. A number of recommendations came out of that report, most of which have been incorporated into the legislation. And I think that's good and appropriate.

Just kind of go through a few, some of these recommendations that are found in the report starting with — find the first one here — we recommended a particular definition of lobby. And I think by and large that's been incorporated. And the difference between a consultant lobbyist and an in-house lobbyist, and certainly there's some good commentary in the report on that.

I guess one of the perhaps contentious, couple of the contentious items that this legislation has been criticized for, and also were concerns in particular, was who would be exempt? And, Mr. Speaker, I think the whole notion of having a lobbying registry and having it as transparent and open and accountable as possible is so that the public has confidence in the kind of access people have to legislators and decision makers, Mr. Speaker.

[19:15]

And certainly everyone acknowledges that the importance of lobbying is critical to the effective functioning of a democracy. The word lobbying has taken on a bit of negative tone in years past, and nowadays you will find people who are doing the actual work of lobbying describing themselves as government relations. So that's sort of the new language to describe the act of lobbying.

And even when I speak to people who are government relations people for agencies or corporations or any kind of advocacy group, they kind of almost look a bit offended when I say that. And I said it's not a bad thing. And it's clear in the report, it's clear in all the literature that we read: the effective functioning of a democracy relies on the ability of legislators to have access to people's opinions, however that may be.

I think the concern with lobbying, when people think of it in a negative way, is when it's done in secret and when it's done inappropriately for personal gain on the part of the legislator or some sort of advantage that's being given to a particular lobby group because of their relationship with, personal relationship with a legislator. And that's certainly not something — and again you'll see it in the literature — there's no legislation in the world that can actually stop that kind of behaviour because it's usually done behind closed doors or in secret, Mr. Speaker. And certainly that's not what lobbying legislation is intended to do, is root out and find all those sources of inappropriate lobbying, but what it does do is provide a vehicle for the public

to be aware of how lobbying, proper lobbying, is taking place and who has access to the ministers.

And earlier today I was talking about the very effective lobby that the railway industry has in Ottawa. And certainly we can see the success that these lobbyists have had because they are certainly influencing railway policy and railway legislation, and have been for, you know, 130 years, Mr. Speaker. That's the powerful effect of lobbying. And you know, unfortunately I think some groups don't have the same access to resources as others and they may not be able to lobby as effectively. And you know, if you go onto the federal lobbyists registry you can see, you can actually see who is doing the lobbying.

So our thought as a committee was, you know, let's incorporate some of those things. Let's make sure that people in Saskatchewan have access to that information so that they know who is speaking to our legislators and government officials who have the ability to make decisions. Decision makers is the key in any strong lobbying registry.

So from my perspective, Mr. Speaker, when you are providing the public with that information, that information should be comprehensive. And I took that position all along. When we have a registry that we're creating, we're going to create a public registry that's part of the bill, it's going to have a registrar. There's going to be all these provisions.

The idea was to make it as simple as possible on this first go around, just getting into this type of registry. We're making it easy to register. There's no fees, for example. It's going to be something that's just hopefully easy for people to use and put their name in. When people are in doubt, they should be able to just register as a lobbyist — there's no shame in that — and then they're not worried about whether they are a lobbyist, whether they're caught within the definition or not when it's close.

But I think the most important thing is that it should be every person, individual, organization, group that has the ear of government and is able to present their advocacy or their position to the government. And so there was a lot of discussion about a number of particular groups, and I don't think we all came down on the same side on that.

And one in particular is the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. Those two groups, in my view, Mr. Speaker, are lobbying the government, and there's no reason why they . . . Now they receive funds from the government, but they're also lobbying the government. They should be involved and registered in the lobbying registry.

This isn't consistent across Canada, and you can see there's two sides to the argument. But my view is, if we're making this as simple as possible and as broad, I always say we need to cast the net as wide as we can and catch as many fish as we can without making it too complicated. So I feel that's an error on the part of the government. They should not have excluded some of those organizations that definitely do lobby. And why not put them in?

Another area that I was disappointed that the government didn't

go was to include universities and also charities because, Mr. Speaker, if they're lobbying, they should be in the registry. I know that, ironically, the minister was lobbied by those groups not to be in the lobbying legislation. And unfortunately I think that's an example of where this has gone wrong. They had a very powerful voice, and they were able to convince the minister to go against the committee's recommendations and to actually remove them from the requirement to register as a lobbyist. I was met with — and I do appreciate the minister's efforts to include me in the discussion; he knows I have an interest in this — and I actually met with the government relations officer for one of the universities who was lobbying me to encourage the government to exclude them from those provisions.

So my preference, Mr. Speaker, and I will maintain this as we go through this, is that the purpose of this is to be as open and transparent and as accountable as possible. That's something we're calling for on this side of the House regularly. And I think this is one area where we had an opportunity and I certainly recommended that we go that route, but sadly it's not going to be open and accountable and transparent for everyone, just for certain groups. And I think that's a mistake.

The other area that I was happy to see the minister reconsider was one of the areas I had difficulty with in the report. It was the threshold for registering. And originally my position again is that you want to catch as many fish as you can, and the smaller the fish, that's okay. It's going to be easy and painless so they don't have to worry about a lot of extra work. So let's catch as many people as we can. You have to pick a number. If you're going to have a threshold, you have to pick a number.

I know that Guy Giorno wasn't exactly happy about the number we picked, but I think on a compromise level I think it was a good number. One hundred is commonly used in other jurisdictions. So you have to pick a number somewhere. If an individual happens to pick up a phone or write a letter to a minister, we certainly don't think that they would . . . if they do it just once and they spend two hours doing it, why would they have to go through the exercise of registering as a lobbyist because it's not a continued sort of persistent type of advocacy.

So 100 hours was picked. Makes sense just to pick a number. The other part of that is what kind of time goes into that 100 hours? How do you count that? And the discussion we had at the committee stage was, well should we include preparation time? Should we include travel time? And originally I had recommended you include both. I thought that, you know, again keeping the bar as low as possible and capturing as many people as we can within this activity without being onerous, let's make it 100 hours with travel time and preparation time.

The committee saw otherwise, saw fit to recommend otherwise. And they recommended just using the travel time to calculate the hundred hours. But I think the minister and his folks had another look at that and, I think if I'm correct, they actually included the preparation time as well in the threshold for . . . Yes, that's right, the minister said on his opening comments on November 25th that there will provide . . . Now this is going to be in the regulations, Mr. Speaker, not in the Act, but he's indicated that the 100-hour threshold for lobbying will include travel and preparation time as well as time spent

communicating. And I think that's a very positive step, and again including as many people within this activity without making it too onerous for them.

I think, based on my minority report that the committee graciously allowed me to submit, which I do appreciate on the part of the committee, those were kind of the two things that I was most concerned about. Pleased to see that the minister has agreed with one of them, but again disappointed that the minister chose not to . . . He actually met with lobbyists and they convinced him that they weren't lobbyists. So it's a bit unfortunate in that sense, Mr. Speaker, but these are important constituents in the relationship with the government: SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], and then also the universities, and other charities.

Sadly and somewhat strangely enough, another group that was not exempted were trade unions, which seems like a little bit like they're being picked on and singled out here. Not exactly sure why the minister chose to do that, and he hasn't really explained it in his comments or in any of his communications with me, but there it is. The trade unions themselves do have to have to register as lobbyists and will be required to report their activity if in fact they meet the 100-hour threshold.

I don't think I'll get into a lot of discussion tonight about the difference between an in-house lobbyist and a consultant lobbyist and an occasional lobbyist. I think all those are pretty well explained in the report. And I certainly would recommend, if people haven't seen it yet and are interested in this type of legislation, that they have a good look at the report.

I did find it a bit unusual that I was actually agreeing with Guy Giorno. We had an opportunity to meet with him. He's a former chief of staff for the current prime minister, and before Nigel Wright he was the chief of staff. And I actually did agree with him on a number of points, and I think it just goes to show you that the issue of lobbying is very non-partisan in many ways. It's about public access to elected officials. It's about how decision-making is made within government. And I think it's an important activity and one that we need to recognize and encourage within the proper framework.

And so I think this legislation is a start. Certainly there was a few other things that could've been in there like a legislative review. We chose as a committee not to make that recommendation because we are hoping it will be reviewed on a regular basis anyways. But once the new registrar is set up and running and we have an opportunity to see how the people of Saskatchewan will be using this and how they will react to the information that's in there, then I think it's up to the next set of legislators, whoever that might be, to take another look at it and see if any fine tuning is required.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members of the committee for allowing me to be part of it and to . . . I see there's some anticipated applause coming from the other side, Mr. Speaker. But I want to thank the committee for all their . . . for putting up with me, and allowing me to speak my piece and have my minority opinion. I want to thank the minister for his gracious extension of information and discussion, and certainly his support of some of the comments that I have provided. So in

the end I think this is a good start.

And at this point I know other colleagues of mine would like to comment on this bill, so I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 120, *The Lobbyists Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 120, *The Lobbyists Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 122 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased as always to enter the discussion on, this time Bill No. 122, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013*.

What this Act does, Mr. Speaker, it has three areas, and the minister goes into them in her second reading speech. One of the first areas is this, these particular changes are providing authority for a First Nations gaming licensing authority to register on-reserve charitable gaming employees and suppliers.

So currently right now the First Nations gaming licensing authority is the Indigenous Gaming Regulators, and right now they can license on-reserve gaming, but not the employees and suppliers. So this is a move to do this.

Just a little bit of background here. This stems from the 1995 gaming framework agreement and the subsequent 2002 agreements where the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] had created the Indigenous Gaming Regulators. And since 2007 the IGR [Indigenous Gaming Regulators Inc.] has been responsible for the licensing and registration of on-reserve charitable gaming. And as the minister points out, registration is one tool that the gaming industry used, and used by gaming regulators to help ensure the integrity of the gaming industry.

So right now SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] registers the employees and suppliers, whether they are involved in gaming on- or off-reserve. So the minister has pointed out that SLGA and the IGR began discussions this past year on IGR's authority to register on-reserve charitable gaming employees and suppliers. So the amendments here will authorize a First Nations gaming licensing authority — in this case it will be IGR — but a First Nations gaming and licensing authority like IGR to register on-reserve charitable gaming employees and suppliers. The Act lays out that the authority must have an agreement with SLGA, and they will provide similar powers

and authorities as SLGA currently does, Mr. Speaker.

[19:30]

So that is one piece of that. I think another piece that the minister points out in her second reading speech, "The second [she says] is allowing SLGA to establish a subsidiary corporation through an order in council." So I think that that's an interesting piece, Mr. Speaker.

She, in her second reading speech, says that:

SLGA does not have the authority to have subsidiaries. Changes to the Act will provide this authority subject to order in council approval. [She points out that] subsidiary corporations are a common accounting and management tool used by corporations to effectively manage assets and operations.

She goes on to say that "The ability for SLGA to have subsidiary corporations will allow SLGA to fully explore options to ensure savings and benefits are present."

But I have to . . . I think we do have some concern or at least in committee we'll have an opportunity to press a little bit further about this. I think the question still remains, and it's not fully answered in her second reading speech, is why would SLGA need to establish a subsidiary corporation? She doesn't reference this in her comments really. Is the SLGA asking for this or suggesting this, or is this coming from the government? Perhaps as this is a government who still seems to be focused on a privatization agenda, thinks it's easier to sell off a subsidiary than a corporation in its full . . . So these are possible things that we can pursue in committee, but that is something that we'd like to flag, that it's not fully answered here as to why SLGA would need a subsidiary, Mr. Speaker.

A third piece of this legislation, as the minister goes on to say, is that she talks about ensuring effective regulation. Some of the . . . And she talks about the government's red tape committee's review of liquor regulations in Saskatchewan and says many of these amendments come from that.

And obviously removing of red tape is important, making sure that things run smoothly and efficiently and that there's not the same hoop that you have to jump through over and over again or different hoops to the same end. Removing red tape where possible is a good idea, but there's some interesting pieces just to consider. Obviously removing red tape is generally a good thing but, on the flip side of that, there are always competing interests or possibilities. The minister points out that it includes eliminating the requirement for medical use, non-consumptive use, and educational use liquor permits. But the piece that I'm interested in here is she says ". . . and removing provisions that grant SLGA authority to demand explanations from permittees when a person has been refused entry."

Just to be the devil's advocate here, Mr. Speaker, I think it perhaps is a good idea to be able to ask a permittee why a person has been refused entry. There's obviously very valid reasons why someone might not be allowed into a facility. Perhaps they in fact are already intoxicated, which that would be a valid reason for not being permitted. But perhaps the

occasion comes when someone is refused entry because of the colour of their skin. The reality is that racism is still alive and well here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and I think removing this could be problematic. It's the flip side of just getting rid of red tape, what comes with that. And there could be some negative consequences, Mr. Speaker.

I think the other one that interests me, the minister points out that, she says:

As a result, Bill 122 contains an amendment that places increased responsibility on permittees to not only refuse to serve alcohol to persons who appear to be intoxicated but to ensure that those persons are not in possession of beverage alcohol.

Having been a former server many, many years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was well aware of my responsibility to not serve people who were intoxicated. The responsibility is huge, both for the individual server, for the establishment. But the piece that is interesting is ensuring that those persons are not in possession of beverage alcohol. And I know in her second reading speech she doesn't outline how a permittee or an establishment is to ensure that people, those people are not in possession of beverage alcohol, but those would be questions that we can ask in committee. I don't imagine the minister's expecting that permittees pat down customers. Perhaps that will be a possibility, but these'll be important questions to ask when we get to committee, Mr. Speaker.

I do know I've got other colleagues who will be interested in weighing in on Bill No. 122, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013*, but for now those are my comments. And I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 122, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 123

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 123 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise tonight and join in debate on Bill No. 123, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013*. This one is, you know, there's housekeeping and then there's probably spring cleaning. And then there's probably, you know, once every decade or so kind of cleaning that goes on sometimes with the legislation, and this one would certainly seem to fall under the latter category, Mr. Speaker.

It's a bit unique in that it deals with a number of private Acts,

and again, that they'd typically be dealt through the private members' business committee. So I'm not sure if the Chair of the private members' business committee is feeling like perhaps she's been shortchanged in all this. But anyway this bill, I'm sure, is brought forward in a proper manner and deals with a number of organizations that over time have withdrawn from the delivery of health services.

I was here last night, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, gave a fine speech talking about various of the organizations involved in the change of the legislation. And not to be too much of a homer, but the one that stuck out for me, Mr. Speaker, was the move to repeal the old Grey Nuns enabling legislation — Grey Nuns Hospital here in the city of Regina, which is now of course Pasqua Hospital. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, it's not just in the riding of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, but is the place where I was born. And at the time, it was still the Grey Nuns Hospital.

Anyway the march of time moves forward, and in terms of the bills that are affected under this miscellaneous statutes repeal measure here tonight, it's pretty straightforward legislation, Mr. Speaker. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 123.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 123, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 124

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 124 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Consequential Amendment) Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Again, Mr. Speaker, this one sort of carries on in the train of Bill No. 123. Again a fine speech given last night by my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana. One subsection is up for repeal from *The Co-operatives Act* and that deals with:

“No person shall use the words ‘community clinic’ or « clinique communautaire » as part of its name or on premises it operates unless it:

was incorporated pursuant to *The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act*; or

is incorporated pursuant to this Act as a community clinic as defined in section 263”.

Again, Mr. Speaker, not to be too much of a homer, but as a member of the Regina Community Clinic, I'm very interested

to see this come forward. And this sort of resonates with the historic sort of evolution of health care in this province and medicare in this province.

And certainly my colleague had talked last night about health district no. 1 out Swift Current way and the way that that had built on earlier work such as the municipal doctor payment scheme in Bulyea, which I'm sure my colleague across the way from Last Mountain-Touchwood takes a fair amount of pride in, in terms of the way that it's gone . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And now the member from Regina Walsh Acres is so deprived of opportunities to get into the debate he is offering up some suggestions from his chair about pronouncements, Mr. Speaker. I think we'll take the record as read.

But again, this one is pretty straightforward, Mr. Speaker. It may touch upon certain grander debates and evolutions that have taken place in this province, but this legislation is not that, as the saying might go. Anyway with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debates on Bill No. 124.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 124, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Consequential Amendment) Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 125

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 125 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Picking up where I'd left off last night at the close of business on *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, this is a very serious piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. It arises in response to some pretty horrendous tragedies that have taken place across this province. We need look no further than this afternoon when the member from Prince Albert Northcote rose to salute the work of the students against drunk driving, and pointing out the grim statistics that are here in this province around road fatalities and injuries and the problems that exist in terms of drinking and driving in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And again, it was well placed that the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote was the one giving the statement, having served as Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee, last night had referenced the good work certainly of all members of that committee, but certainly the work that I was very familiar with put forward by the member from Saskatoon Riversdale and the member from Cumberland.

And I guess the thing that is most salient, Mr. Speaker, is that as good as the legislation is here, it could be better. And what I hear from my colleagues in the work that was conducted by that committee is that this is good legislation, but it doesn't respond

in whole to what has been demonstrated as best practices in other jurisdictions, what has been demonstrated to save lives and to cut these fatality rates significantly, Mr. Speaker.

And so I guess as good as the legislation here is tonight, it doesn't go far enough. And that is highly unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. It's highly unfortunate, given that in past we've been able to come together around moving for legislation to improve the situation for workers on the highway, both under the then minister of Highways, the member from Cypress Hills, and certainly the current Minister of Highways, the member from Indian Head-Milestone. We've been able to come together in this House in agreement on something that makes absolute sense in terms of working for that better safety that all workers should be able to expect when they go to the job site in the morning, that they should be able to come home tonight to their loved ones and to their lives and to move on as such.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, those have been good, co-operative efforts in this House. And I guess that was the spirit into which we'd entered the work of the Traffic Safety Committee. And I know that it's not just, you know, disappointment on our side that the full package of reforms aren't there in this legislation. It's not just disappointment, Mr. Speaker, but I think in terms of examining the evidence from across the country, in terms of hearing from other experts in the field, in terms of hearing from people that have more experience than anyone on that committee or anyone in these benches, Mr. Speaker, that it's again unfortunate that there wasn't the appropriate complete response made to recommendations around the suspensions and around safety carriers in the cars, the booster seats, Mr. Speaker.

[19:45]

But again there's some fine measures in the legislation in terms of refining the work around inexperienced drivers, repeat offenders, drivers with high blood alcohol levels; changes on zero drug and alcohol tolerance for drivers under 19 years of age; changes for all drivers in the graduated driver's licensing program and the motorcycle graduated driver's licensing program; the changes around strengthening penalties for drinking and driving based on the driver's experience and the number of offences they have — longer suspensions, vehicle impoundments, mandatory ignition interlock requirements. These are good changes, Mr. Speaker. But again drawn into relief alongside the presentations and the evidence that was made available to the committee, we're left to wonder why the full package of reforms was not seized upon.

One thing that we'll be watching closely, Mr. Speaker, is the utilization of photo radar. And it's a reasonable approach I think that has been brought forward in terms of using a pilot project, and then of course the evidence will be there to be evaluated and to whether or not the program should be expanded or wrapped up. But certainly we'll be watching the work of the photo radar pilot project in terms of the safety it holds out to provide for school zones and specific high-risk locations.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of changes that relate to the New West Partnership Agreement and helping Saskatchewan to align its vehicle registration regulatory framework more closely with Alberta. It enables SGI

[Saskatchewan Government Insurance] to be more responsive to new and emerging registration issues for vehicles of unusual size, weight, and operating characteristics. We'll be interested to see how that plays out, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly the family that had the vehicle — and again, it's not entirely related to this and it's more of a customs and excise matter — but the family that had their vehicle impounded at North Portal and the kind of heartache and frustration that they had to endure getting that vehicle into Canada, you know, problems like that should be minimized. And we'll be interested to see how this alignment with the Alberta system either aids or cuts into those kind of circumstances from arising.

And then very finally, Mr. Speaker, the changes that affect commercial carriers such as increasing weight thresholds for monitoring, moving the authority for commercial carrier safety from the Highway Traffic Board to SGI and publicly releasing carrier safety information aligning Saskatchewan with other Canadian jurisdictions, again we'll be interested to know how that works out in practice and what the actual sort of roll out for that is, and whether or not that helps or hampers highway traffic safety, how that hampers or helps the commercial carriers. We'll be interested to see how that unfolds.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, and again recognizing that I was speaking the clock out at the close of business last night, I know that other of my colleagues have remarks and contributions to this debate that they would like to make. But for myself at this time I am ready to move adjournment on Bill No. 125, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2013*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 125, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 19:50.]

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