



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

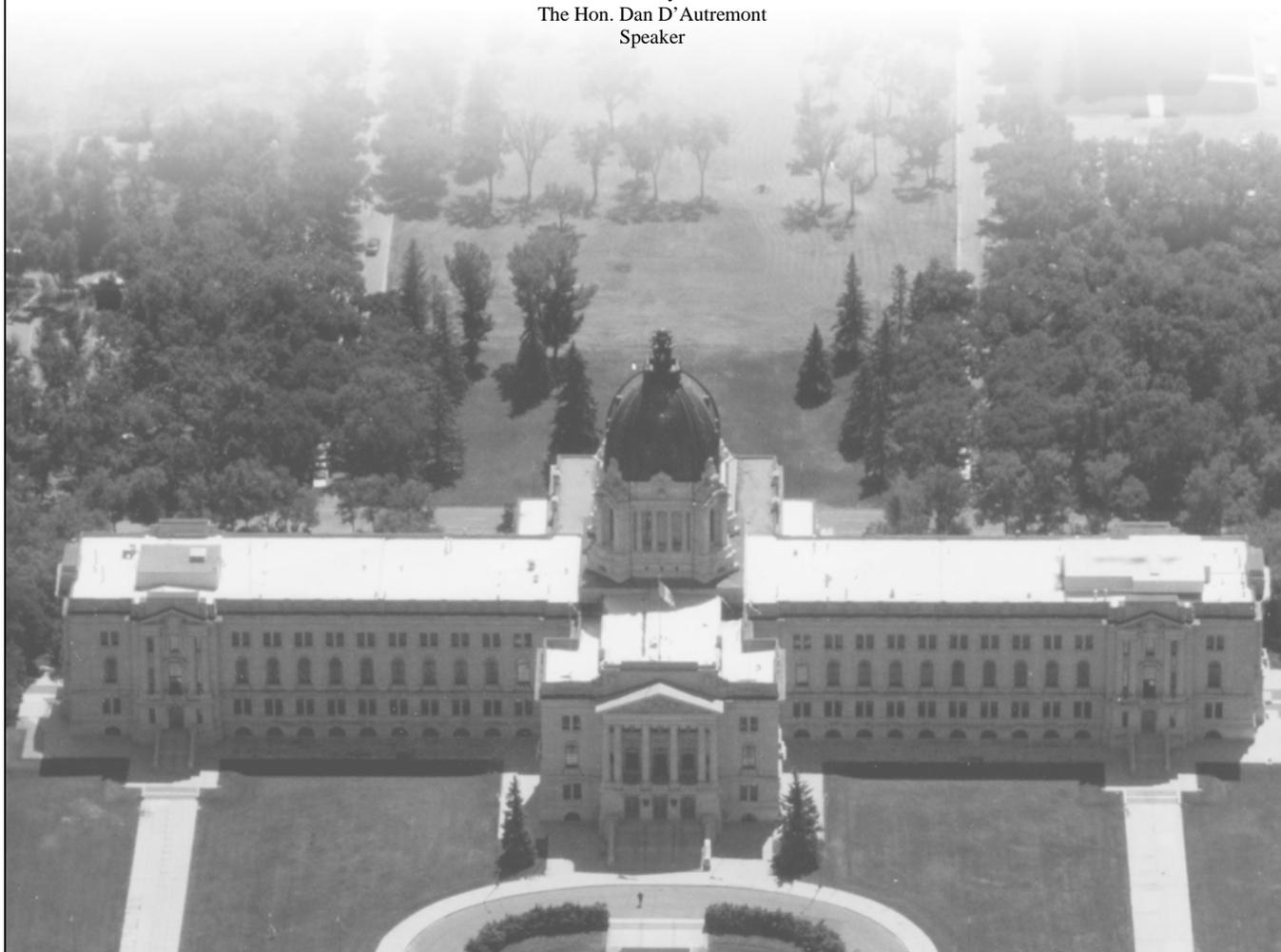
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

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Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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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 members of the House a special guest who was the subject of a major announcement from the Saskatchewan Roughriders yesterday. It was a bittersweet announcement. The Riders announced, along with Rey Williams, that Rey would be retiring from active play in the CFL [Canadian Football League].

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that the Riders have created an exciting position that we want to highlight today in the legislature, the first one like it in the CFL, a director of player development, and announced that Rey Williams would be doing that work, Mr. Speaker, to assist players on the team with transition issues, to help them plan indeed for life even after football, and to ensure the Riders can be basically the class organization that they are in the CFL. And they picked the right guy, Mr. Speaker.

And I think if you talk to anybody associated with the Roughriders or frankly the Hamilton Tiger-Cats where Rey played for a period of time, his teammates, the front office, the coaches, I'd say even all of the coaches of those two organizations would say that he was a player with great integrity, a class player, and one that was well liked by his teammates. So as director of player development, this is a great choice that the Riders have made.

Mr. Speaker, very quickly, Rey played in the NFL [National Football League] as well for the San Francisco 49ers, time in Miami with the Dolphins, as well as with the Pittsburgh Steelers where he was very highly regarded but where an injury I think kept him from staying with the Steelers for a long period of time. That turned out to be good news eventually for the Riders because he made his way back to Saskatchewan, was on his way to an MVP [most valuable player] season last year before he was hurt I think in the ninth game of the season. And in any event though, he is a two-time Grey Cup champion both in '07 and last year with the Riders. We welcome him here to the legislature today, but also we welcome him as a resident and a new executive with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. We acknowledge this position they've created. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Rey to his Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Premier to welcome Rey Williams to his Legislative Assembly here today, to thank Rey for his place on our team for some time. And of course all will know that Rey was an incredible and fierce linebacker on our squad, a big part of Rider nation's success. We thank you for all those

efforts and contributions on the field, and we really look forward to all that you'll offer our team in the role of developing players for many years to come in your new role with player personnel. So to Rey Williams, to our Rider organization, I say thank you, and it's a pleasure to have you sitting in our Assembly here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to recognize members of Saskatchewan's long-serving volunteer crop reporters who are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to recognize their commitment and service to the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

These crop reporters have reached tremendous milestones of 25, 30, and 35 years of service. Each week for at least 30 weeks a year, these individuals have collected valuable information for the ministry. From seeding to harvest they provide important reports about crop development and progress and precipitation in their respective RMs [rural municipality]. Mr. Speaker, their work delivers a timely and accurate crop report for all the producers in the province.

I want to recognize and thank these individuals for their dedication to the Saskatchewan crop reporting service. And I would like to ask crop reporters and their spouses to stand as I announce their names: Bruce Durie and his spouse, Elanor, RM of Pense; George and Delores Riche, RM of Dufferin; Terry and Helen Helgason, RM of Emerald; Brett Meinert and his wife, Rana, RM Bone Creek; John Slabic and his spouse, Norma, RM Gull Lake; Delwyn Jansen, RM of LeRoy; Lloyd Wagner and his spouse, Ruth, RM of Kelvington; Larry Kuntz and his spouse, Rita, RM of Buffalo.

There are some crop reporters and spouses who are not able to attend today: Daniel Ruest and his spouse, Gilberte, RM of Wise Creek, 25 years; Brian Spence, RM of Mayfield, 25 years; Louise Hale, RM Wolverine, 25 years; Terry Macfarlane, RM of Mount Pleasant, 25 years; Neil Manson, RM Mildren, 25 years; and Dale and Elita Moberg, RM of Webb, 30 years.

I would ask all members in joining me to thank these crop reporters for their dedication to our agriculture industry and our province, and welcome them to their legislature.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you and on behalf of the official opposition, I

too would like to welcome all the crop reporters and their spouses here to the Legislative Assembly and congratulate you on the service awards that you're receiving, and for the many, many, many years of effort that you've put into this important volunteer work that is, as the minister indicated, so important to the producers of Saskatchewan. So on behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the other members in welcoming Rey Williams to the Legislative Assembly. I had the pleasure of playing with Rey. It's not so much of a pleasure to play against him. He's a very . . . He's a great competitor, very fast player, and it was always a challenge to try and block him for sure.

So congratulations on your new role. Glad you are staying in Saskatchewan. There's more and more alumni that, after their playing days, are finding opportunities here in our great province. And wish him the best in his new role. And later this spring, Mr. Speaker, he'll be part of a very select group of players from the Roughriders' great history. There's a small group that will have two Grey Cup rings as players, so we're looking forward to that. And so welcome, Rey.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with our Agriculture minister in welcoming some guests that are here with the crop. They are very good friends of mine and neighbours from up in my country, Larry and Rita Kuntz. I'm very pleased to see you in your Legislative Assembly today.

They are very active farmers up in my community, and excellent Simmental breeders. And actually we have pastured some of their cattle in the past. I look forward to that again someday, perhaps. I'd like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery it's my pleasure to introduce Mr. Lee Sebastian who's joined us here today. Lee, give us a wave. Lee drew the short straw and was stuck with me as his intern, or he's my intern. He's working with me through the political science 100 program. It's been a pleasure working with Lee. He's a geography student. He's from Regina. He's been out to some community activities, cultural in nature, also to SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] last week. He's going to be around here for budget here tomorrow as well. It's a pleasure to be working with him. I'll ask all members to welcome Lee to his Assembly.

But he's seated with Kaytlyn Criddle who is the Saskatchewan legislative internship program intern who also drew the short straw and has to work with me, Mr. Speaker. It's been a pleasure to continue to work with Kaytlyn. I know she was a busy woman this last weekend; she was competing in the provincial ringette competition.

So I ask all members in this Assembly to welcome Lee and Kaytlyn to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Now that we're out of short straws . . .

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in 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 we know that other provinces have brought forward legislation and various tools and programs showing swift and effective government action. And we know that this government is not doing enough to protect Saskatchewan youth. We know that bullying is a human rights issue, one of safety and inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

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.

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

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan that are concerned with the failure of the audit by that government and the management of our finances by that government. They are concerned that the government has, for the first time ever in Canadian history, failed an audit as a provincial government, and they're calling for nothing short of books that they can trust.

And the prayer reads as follows:

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

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefited from the rental purchase option program, also known as RPO. These families are very proud homeowners in their communities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this government stubbornly ignored the call to maintain this program. Instead it cancelled the RPO. That means the dream of home ownership is destroyed for many families in the North. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly cause the Sask Party government to restore the RPO rent-to-own option program for responsible renters in northern Saskatchewan, allowing them the dignity of owning their own homes and building community in our province's beautiful North.

It is signed by many good northerners. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too stand today to present a petition on highways, Mr. Speaker. And there are many, many petitions from all throughout Saskatchewan, but this particular petition is in the Cumberland House area, and their prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that upgrades, repairs, and maintenance on Highway 123 serving Cumberland House Cree Nation and the village of Cumberland House is important to all Saskatchewan residents and northern residents and must be undertaken immediately.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from La Ronge but many, many other petitions have been signed from all throughout Saskatchewan. And I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that the school and the community have raised this issue with the Sask Party provincial government since 2007 without resolution.

They point out that the gym at Sacred Heart has played an important role in the school's efforts to become a literacy leader, having served as the gathering place for the very successful reading assemblies and reading nights. They point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in

north central Regina with 450-plus students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations. They point out that enrolment has increased by 100-plus students over the past four years and that attendance and learning outcomes are steadily improving. And they point out, 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 the Sask Party provincial government to immediately commit to the replacement of the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is part of a larger petition effort representing over 1,000 signatures. This petition has been signed by citizens from Assiniboia, Balgonie, Birch Hills, Buchanan, Carievale, Canora, Coronach, Cupar, Cut Knife, Earl Grey, Edenwold, Emerald Park, Estevan, Fort Qu'Appelle, Gravelbourg, Hagen, Humboldt, Kindersley, Kronau, Liberty, Little Pine First Nation, Lumsden, Maple Creek, Melfort, Milestone, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Pasqua First Nation, Perdue, Punnichy, Rapid View, Regina, Regina Beach, Saskatoon, Sedley, Sinaluta, Strasbourg, Swift Current, Tisdale, Weyburn, White City, Wilkie, Wood Mountain, Wymark, and Yorkton. Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Gymnasium at Sacred Heart Community School

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, since the gym at Sacred Heart Community School was closed for safety reasons last spring, the friends and supporters of Sacred Heart have been busy calling for action. The community and the Regina Catholic School Board have raised this issue with the Sask Party government without resolve over the past seven years. And while there is a temporary solution in place with the use of the old Sacred Heart Church sanctuary, this school and these students need a solution. They especially need a gym.

The need for action at Sacred Heart has been communicated to this government by the Regina Catholic School Board. It has been communicated to this government by the school's community council through 50-plus letters of support from parents and council members. It has been communicated by over 1,000 individuals from across Saskatchewan in the petition I have had the privilege of presenting here in the Legislative Assembly. Together with these petitions, Sacred Heart Community School has been raised with this government about 50 times in this Legislative Assembly since last spring by Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

As we look to tomorrow's budget, the question begs to be asked: will Sacred Heart get the action that it deserves? Will this year be different from the past six budgets, and will this Sask Party government finally listen and act? Mr. Speaker, the students and staff and supporters of Sacred Heart Community

School certainly hope so. They are looking for help and support in doing the tremendous work of Sacred Heart Community School, and they should get it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to remark on the amazing efforts of Canada's Paralympic team which competed in Sochi over the past few weeks. I am proud to say that Canada was third in the overall medal standing with seven gold, two silver and seven bronze, which is a total of 16.

It was a nail-biter going into the weekend with Canada low in the medal standing, but our Canadian athletes pulled through. Canada picked up two medals on Saturday with para-alpine skier Mac Marcoux and the wheelchair curling team both winning gold. The Canadian team ended the games on Sunday by winning another two gold medals that day, one from cross-country skier Brian McKeever and another from team member Chris Klebl.

Mr. Speaker, a top moment for the Canadian team was when cross-country skier legend Brian McKeever made Canada's Paralympic history on Sunday by winning his third gold medal in the men's visually impaired 10-kilometre race. He is the first Canadian Paralympic to win a whopping 10 medals throughout his Paralympic career.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud of each and every one of our athletes who compete in the 2014 Sochi Paralympics. I ask members to join me in congratulating our Canadian Paralympic athletes on their great success at the 2014 Winter Games. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Work Week

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week marks Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. This year's theme is Social Workers Promoting Equity for a Stronger Canada.

This theme is shared with the Canadian Association of Social Workers' National Social Work Month, which aims to highlight the profession's growing concern with the rising social and economic and health inequities in Canada. In this province, the efforts have been spearheaded by the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, established in 1962.

Mr. Speaker, social workers in Saskatchewan and across Canada are concerned that the lessons of histories on the benefits of broadening public investments are overlooked. Unfortunately, the debate is too focused on budgeting and costs rather than what is best for people.

Several events are being held in the coming week by local chapters of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers to raise awareness. Today in Prince Albert, Glen Frank, security

intelligence officer from the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, will be discussing gangs in our community. And on March 24th, Alison MacDonald, the executive director and registrar for the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, will be speaking here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the importance of Social Work Week and to thank the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers for their good work representing the interests of social workers in this province. Thank you.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to proclaim Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. This year's theme is Social Workers Promoting Equity for a Stronger Canada.

Social workers are trained professionals who play a vital role in ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. They provide their services in a variety of settings including family service agencies, child welfare programs, hospitals, mental health clinics, schools, correctional institutions, long-term care homes, federal and provincial departments, and in private practice.

Social work is not an easy job. In fact it's one of the most complex and challenging occupations imaginable. Workers are faced with difficult situations on a daily basis and are required to make tough decisions, decisions that help people through difficult times. Despite all of this, social workers continue to serve those in our society with the greatest need, and they serve them with tireless dedication, performing their duties with the utmost professionalism. Mr. Speaker, social workers counsel and support those in need and in crisis. Most importantly, they recognize the worth and dignity in those they serve.

In closing I want to thank social workers across this province for their dedication to children, families, and other people in need. Thank you for making a difference. Thank you for making lives better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Remembering an Agricultural Pioneer

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contribution of Chris Sutter who passed away last Friday at the age of 94. Chris was a family friend and livestock producer from the Redvers area and is known as a great leader in the Saskatchewan agricultural community, most notably for his role as one of the founding fathers of Canadian Western Agribition.

Chris was the first president of Agribition and the visionary behind the show, which became a reality in 1971 with the opening of the first ever Canadian Western Agribition. With over 5,000 head of livestock, it is now one of the world's biggest agricultural exhibitions and attracts over 100,000 people annually.

In 1988 Chris was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, and in 1990 he was appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of his contribution to the preservation of rural life, to the cattle breeding industry, and to the agricultural community of Saskatchewan. Chris has also been inducted into both the Saskatchewan and Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, the Northern International Livestock Exposition Hall of Fame, and most recently the Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the livestock industry and of all of Saskatchewan, I would like all members to join me in remembering Chris Sutter, one of Saskatchewan's true agricultural pioneers.

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

Pharmacist Awareness Month

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to recognize March as Pharmacist Awareness Month. Pharmacists are highly skilled, dedicated professionals who are a vital part of our health care team. You will find them working in Saskatchewan's hospitals and community pharmacies both big and small. And they are the health care professional most knowledgeable about drugs and their effects. Often they are the patient's first point of contact with the health system.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years we have collaborated with pharmacists on many significant initiatives and programs to improve patient care. A recent achievement is the introduction of the Saskatchewan medication assessment program. This program helps seniors living in the community to better manage their medications and ensure the best possible outcomes. It recognizes the ability of pharmacists to improve health care delivery in the province, working in collaboration with doctors and other health care professionals.

Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are valued health professionals in Saskatchewan. We support them working to their full scope of practice. On behalf of my colleagues and Saskatchewan citizens, I would like to thank the 1,400 pharmacists of this province for the work that they do each and every day. They're making a real difference in the lives of Saskatchewan residents. Thank you.

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

Tax Savings for Low-Income Families

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize the work of the community volunteer income tax program which is run out of the Saskatoon Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, people living on a low or fixed income could face many obstacles to filling out their income tax returns, such as poor literacy, English as an additional language, or complex tax forms. Through this program, volunteers help people with low incomes to complete their tax returns at no cost, thus giving them the opportunity to receive much needed income of tax

credits and benefits. The Canada Revenue Agency works with local community-based organizations to train volunteers for this program.

Mr. Speaker, last year in Saskatoon alone \$7 million were returned in tax refunds to clients of this program. That's a significant amount of tax credits and benefits for low-income families. Since 2008 Saskatchewan families have also been receiving help through the government initiatives which have removed 112,000 residents from the provincial tax rolls. Overall Saskatchewan people have saved more than \$400 million through lower personal income tax and indexation. Lower taxes for Saskatchewan residents is something that we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in recognizing the great work that the Saskatoon Food Bank and its volunteers are doing through this community volunteer income tax program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Consultant Fees and Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday after question period, the Premier was asked about the \$40 million cash cow consulting contract that his government signed. And the Premier said this:

The other thing that I think is frustrating is the NDP leader characterizing this lean process as sort of providing a Japanese culture within the health care system. There is no cultural teachings about any culture, Japanese or any other culture.

My question to the Premier: does he stand by this statement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Interesting, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether or not he's actually read the \$40 million contract that his government signed. If he read through the \$40 million contract with John Black and Associates, he would see, Mr. Speaker, that it talks about Japanese sensei, and it specifically says "Japan cultural training."

My question to the Premier: what is Japan cultural training? Why is it in the \$40 million contract, and why do Saskatchewan health care workers need it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's not in the contract. It's part of a template, that this particular consultancy offers to all of its clients who are engaging in lean, as an option. And so there could be cultural training for those who are participating to actually, in some cases, go to Japan for it or stay here.

Mr. Speaker, that option was presented to the then minister of Health. The then minister of Health said, we're not interested in that part of this consultancy.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here is the information provided by this government that it gave as a FOI [freedom of information] to the opposition and which the media has seen. Schedule B — fees, contracts, Mr. Speaker — Japan kanban seminar, consulting fee of senseis and interpreters invoiced separately. It says, Mr. Speaker, clearly, Japan cultural training and the amount, Mr. Speaker, is redacted.

So here we go again. The Premier, Mr. Speaker, does not recognize the questions around . . . that health care workers have about the use of language that is being forced upon health care workers. And then, Mr. Speaker, after question period he goes in the rotunda and chastises me and others who simply want to ask questions about the fundamentals of this contract.

My question to the Premier: what is Japan cultural training? Why is it in the contract, Mr. Speaker, and why do Saskatchewan health care workers need it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, not everything that happens in the legislature is about the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, in the document the term optional is used to describe the cultural aspect of this. Mr. Speaker, that option was presented to the then minister of Health when we were engaging in the \$40 million over four years project that, by the way, has already found more savings than it will cost in just two years.

But that option for cultural training was presented to the then minister. The then minister said no, we're not interested. It's not part of the contract, Mr. Speaker. That's why I said those things in the rotunda. It had nothing to do with the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government's \$40 million cash cow contract is flying in Japanese senseis to the province, Mr. Speaker, at \$3,500 per day. And it also involves health care workers learning Japanese phrases. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's kaizen promotion provides a handy Japanese-English dictionary on its website for health care workers. It includes words, Mr. Speaker, like chaku-chaku, gemba, heijunka, hoshin kanri, jidoka, kaikaku, kanban, muda and, Mr. Speaker, poka-yoke.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: this is getting ridiculous. Why, why is his government spending \$40 million on a contract that requires health care workers to learn terms like chaku-chaku?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, if any of those involved in lean training are uncomfortable with the terminology, they need only bring those forward and there can be adjustments.

In fact there have been already, I believe, with respect to the Wascana Rehab, that particular lean initiative. And we had an individual here yesterday that is very supportive of lean that's been involved in that process. They looked at this particular, at lean, they looked at this particular component of terminology and decided to change it. Mr. Speaker, they, the front-line staff have the flexibility to do that. The NDP [New Democratic Party] don't like the use of Japanese words. If others don't as well, we can certainly accommodate that, Mr. Speaker.

And I would point out that this project is \$10 million per year for four years and then it ends. I would point out that the total costs of lean are point two per cent of the entire health care budget. And I would point out that all of the money we're going to invest in lean over the four years has already been recovered in savings in two years, Mr. Speaker. Forty million dollars over four years, all of that has been recovered. Never mind the cost avoidance at the children's hospital, 20 to \$30 million because of lean design. Never mind what's happened at Moose Jaw Hospital. The new one there will operate less in terms of annual cost because of lean.

Mr. Speaker, we've already saved more than we've invested, and with respect to flexibility on terminology, we'll leave that to those delivering the lean across the system.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The news now that the Premier says they're willing to remove the Japanese terms from the lean process is a very different story than what was communicated by the deputy minister of lean just yesterday.

On a radio show the deputy was asked, we certainly hear about this. And he said, "We certainly hear that as one of the criticisms." It went on to say, "The use of Japanese language has been helpful and we are sharing our experiences in learning with other corporations and other industries that have adopted lean." It goes on to say, "When we're speaking the same language, that's hugely beneficial to share learning."

The question was asked to him, but does it have to be Japanese? "Well if they're using Japanese terms, then we're talking the same language."

Mr. Speaker, we hear from front-line health care workers that this is complicating matters. This is frustrating members. And now we hear, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier is willing to walk back from that. My question to the Premier is this: does he agree with his deputy minister, or is it now the policy that they're removing the Japanese terms from lean?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, why does the Leader of the Opposition object to the use of Japanese terminology where that in case is happening?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, what we hear from the Premier is that he's spending more time focusing on what health bureaucrats are saying, as opposed to what front-line health care workers are saying. When you listen to front-line health care workers, Mr. Speaker, we hear that they're frustrated. We hear that they're afraid to speak up. We hear, Mr. Speaker, that they're afraid to share their views because of the orthodoxy that is being shoved and pushed by this government, right from the top.

Mr. Speaker, just moments before question period, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses issued a statement. And it was titled — it came from the president, Tracy Zambory — and it's titled "The real story about lean." And in this statement, they talk about how they were once hopeful about this process. The statement says, "SUN was hopeful at the outset that lean concepts would be effective. It's very disappointing this is turning out not to be the case in practice." The president goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, "We are now at the point where we must look at whether we should be proceeding with lean or changing course."

My question to the Premier: does he agree with the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses representing some of the front-line health care workers, the people who are expressing concerns with his lean process?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition didn't answer the question that I posed earlier. However I'll try to answer his question, Mr. Speaker.

I stated yesterday in the scrum with the media that we would want to hear concerns from front-line staff about lean or anything else in the health care system. In fact the lean, the application of lean has been very much about hearing from front-line staff and having front-line staff inform the health care system.

It's also why one of the first projects of lean was the releasing time to care so nurses could focus more on the patient and less on administration. If now SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] is saying that that's not happening because of lean, you bet the government is concerned. And we have already contacted SUN, officials of the government, and we're going to be meeting on Friday. Officials will meet on Friday to determine exactly what those concerns are.

In the meantime, in the letters to the editor section of *The StarPhoenix* today, we hear from Dr. Dennis Kendel, the past registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, who says:

Rather than engage in partisan debate about the cost of these consultant services, I would suggest we focus on the issues. There is compelling, persistent international evidence that none of Canada's provincial/territorial health-care systems are "high-performing" systems that deliver optimal value for money.

He goes on to describe exactly what lean is about and how it is

needed in the system.

Mr. Speaker, there's going to be different point of views. We had SUN supportive earlier on. Now they have concerns. We'll hear about them. But make no mistake, we're going to continue, Mr. Speaker, to find efficiencies in the health care system and focus on the patient, Mr. Speaker. That's why there are more doctors practising today than under the NDP, more nurses, Mr. Speaker. It's why we're opening facilities and long-term care beds instead of closing them like the NDP did for years.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when this government signs one contract for \$40 million with one US [United States] consultant, when they're flying in Japanese senseis to give training, Mr. Speaker, at \$3,500 a day, when the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses says that they no longer support this process . . . And here's another quote, Mr. Speaker:

Lean is supposed to be an inclusive process and when the largest provider of direct patient care says it's not working, we have to go back to the drawing board, and we have to do this together. It's time to put patients first.

Mr. Speaker, when we have senseis being flown in from Japan at \$3,500 a day, when front-line health care workers are frustrated because they're being forced to use a Japanese-English dictionary, when we have the president of SUN, Mr. Speaker, saying that they need to go back to the drawing board, it's time for this government to pull the plug on these cash cow consultant contracts. Will the Premier do that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this government, like all governments across Canada and North America, are looking to find efficiencies, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've demonstrated where we've found \$40 million in efficiencies in just its first two or three years of lean, Mr. Speaker, with more work to do to embed lean within the system and change the culture of health care in Saskatchewan, as opposed to the members opposite. And I'll quote from the newspaper *The StarPhoenix* from almost 10 years ago, April 1st, 2004, and I quote:

Health Minister John Nilson warned the health regions needed to change how they deliver health care to find efficiencies, including changes in staff mix, facility closures or conversions, and reductions in long-term care beds.

Mr. Speaker, they were looking for efficiencies. How did they find them? A month later, Mr. Speaker, in *The Western Producer*, the headline says, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: "More health cuts in Saskatchewan." Ninety beds closed including 50 long-term care beds, 92 jobs cut including 40 nurses — that's NDP efficiencies in a budget that increased 6.3 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's shocking that the Health minister, after hearing from the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses with her statement that they need to go back to the drawing board, that the Health minister would stand in this Assembly and say that they need to further embed lean in the system when the largest front-line provider of care is calling into question the whole process.

Let's look at the actions of this government, Mr. Speaker. It was just recently that this government rejected urgent requests from care facilities for \$8.5 million for desperately needed repairs, equipment, and staff. They plead poverty on that, Mr. Speaker. They didn't have \$8.5 million for front-line health care for seniors and people in this province.

Then they turn around, Mr. Speaker, spend \$40 million on a contract to one US consultant, a contract that's now being called into question by the unions. In the last two years, Mr. Speaker, they've spent \$3.6 million flying consultants to Saskatchewan. They have spent, Mr. Speaker, well over \$210,000 flying senseis to Saskatchewan from Japan.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the Japanese terms are for minimum care standards, for fixing health care, for appropriate staffing levels, Mr. Speaker, but those are the things that this government should be focused on. They should be listening to front care health care providers. Will they pull the plug on these fat contracts that we're seeing for lean?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, through the work of this government in working with the lean methodology, Mr. Speaker, which other jurisdictions are looking at what Saskatchewan is doing, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has indicated and I've indicated, we've saved to date \$40 million, including \$35 million in how we inventory blood and plasma, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Massey Place ran for the leadership of his party on a platform that said, and I quote, "Our focus needs to be on establishing a more efficient system that is centred on patients and their families," Mr. Speaker. He's been the Leader of the Opposition for a year, and I don't think he could name five things he'd do to make the system more efficient. Mr. Speaker, I could name you dozens of things that we're doing right now to make the system more efficient.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we should have an efficient system, and here are some things: (1) stop flying senseis to Saskatchewan from Japan, (2) stop wasting resources having Japanese-English dictionaries on websites, (3) Mr. Speaker, listen to front-line health care providers when they tell you that the approach that you're following is flawed, (4) Mr. Speaker, pull the plug on John Black because Saskatchewan taxpayers are not getting good value for their resources, (5) allow health care professionals in health regions to actually do their job and not go to workshops where they learn how to fold paper airplanes.

My question to the Premier: does he agree with the statements

that have been provided by the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, you know it's difficult days in NDP land when cancelling a contract constitutes a health policy for the NDP. You know it's difficult days, Mr. Speaker, when that amounts to health policy in the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen savings of \$40 million through lean already in early days, Mr. Speaker. We've seen efficiencies over a 20-year period of what we expect to see in terms of the operation of the Moose Jaw Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen the number of cancelled appointments at Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's mental health and addictions clinic go from 42 per cent cancelled appointments to zero, Mr. Speaker. That's reduced their wait-list for people that are looking for mental health and addictions from 400 people, Mr. Speaker, down to 70 clients. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to put a number on what the efficiency is in terms of that one savings alone, Mr. Speaker, but to those people who are now getting appointments quicker, Mr. Speaker, I don't think you can put a price on what lean has done for those people.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, central to this discussion needs to be the focus on the patient. And I realize the Premier, Mr. Speaker, has passed the baton to the Health minister, but in talking about the approach, here's what Tracy Zambory, the president, says about the approach: that "... it fails to take into account patient ... [safety] ... and complexity and is unfortunately proving to have little impact on direct care at the bedside and patient outcomes," Mr. Speaker.

Patients, Mr. Speaker, are not cogs in some Toyota assembly line. They are people, Mr. Speaker, who deserve attention, who deserve care. My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier is this: he has lost focus on the patient. He has focused on fat contracts, Mr. Speaker, focused on looking at only the savings and not looking at the people that matter, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, when they're going for savings, Mr. Speaker, they're signing the fattest contracts imaginable, flying in senseis from Japan for \$3,500 a day.

My question to the Premier: SUN has called for this government to go back to the drawing board. Will the Premier, not the Health minister, will the Premier stand in the Assembly and say he will go back to the drawing board?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder in 2004 if the member from Lakeview, when he was the Health minister, did he talk to the patients in the 12 communities that lost beds, Mr. Speaker? When 50 long-term care beds were closed in 12 communities, did he talk to those patients, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, this is what patients are saying, Mr. Speaker, about lean. We have Heather Thiessen: "I am now a believer in these processes our hospitals are using to make things better for patients and families." Louise Frederick: "This experience is

very empowering. I am confident patients are being . . .

[14:15]

The Speaker: — There is enough conversation going on for more than one legislature. Can we please listen to both the answer and the question? I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are what patients are actually saying because in all of the work that we do in lean we always, always, Mr. Speaker, involve patients. We always involve family reps. We always involve front-line workers, Mr. Speaker, unlike the decisions that were made in the past to find efficiencies in the health care system which never involved the patients, which never involved the front-line staff, Mr. Speaker. That's a big difference with what we're doing here in Saskatchewan now.

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

Mr. Broten: — Here is some more of what Tracy Zambory, the president of SUN says. The question will be for the Premier again, Mr. Speaker. She states:

Naturally SUN and front-line registered nurses shared government's initial optimism that lean would be the answer to improving patient care in our province. Sadly, this has not been the case.

She goes on to say:

It's not always easy admitting a mistake, especially for governments who are at the mercy of their voters and constituents. But when it comes to health care and the very safety and well-being of those who have entrusted us to lead, we must put political motivations, ideologies and rhetoric aside and work together.

My question for the Premier: will he listen to the president of the nurses? Will he admit that they made a mistake? Will he admit that they need to go back to the drawing board on lean?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Zambory on a number of occasions just recently in the last number of months as we look to form a new partnership that has been very successful for the province of Saskatchewan, that has seen this government hire 800 additional nursing positions and in fact exceeded that to an additional 200, Mr. Speaker. So we are in discussions with SUN around a partnership as well as a new collective bargaining agreement that is going to need to be re-signed soon, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would again go back to the differences between how this government finds efficiencies while focusing on patient care, on quality care, on reducing errors and defects in the system, Mr. Speaker, and improving outcomes to the system, as opposed to the members opposite. We've talked about \$35 million in blood savings, Mr. Speaker. We find savings in how we inventory something like blood and plasma, Mr. Speaker.

How the NDP found \$35 million in savings: \$10 million to close the Plains hospital; \$25 million to close 52 rural hospitals, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan, particularly rural Saskatchewan, cannot afford the efficiencies of the NDP. The cost was just too high, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the concerns that front-line health care workers have, that patients have, and that families have, Mr. Speaker, is that this approach, this over-the-top, overboard approach that we've seen from this government when it comes to lean, has been at the expense of good Saskatchewan common sense, has been at the expense of the expertise that is on the front lines of those who've been providing work.

Mr. Speaker, it was actually yesterday the deputy minister said in an interview about the good aspects of lean, he said, "We've only started with respect to this lean journey. The work that's been done to date has been small tests of change. These ideas have come from the front lines, those in the know, those who are working in these environments every day."

Mr. Speaker, why do we need a \$40 million contract with John Black and Associates? Why do we need senseis from Japan coming at \$3,500 a day when their deputy minister of lean himself says that the real lessons are from the front lines?

My question to the Premier: will he listen to those on the front lines? Will he listen to the nurses, admit that they've lost their way with lean, admit that they've signed fat, fat, generous contracts to US consultants? Will they pull the plug and go back to the drawing board? My question is for the Premier.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, lean engages the front-line staff, engages the patients and their families, Mr. Speaker. It engages, as I said, patients. That is always at the heart of what we do with lean, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of ways and choices that we can find efficiencies within the system. We can take the old way of doing things within health care system, when in a year the health budget went up by nearly six and a half per cent it resulted in the closure of facilities, in beds, and the firing of staff, Mr. Speaker. Or we can look to see another way to find efficiencies within the system that actually improve the care, Mr. Speaker.

Here's just another example. Regina Qu'Appelle, using lean methodology, Mr. Speaker, reduced cancelled MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging] from 12 per week down to 1, allowing them to do 650 more MRI scans in a year — a 7 per cent increase in productivity without adding one single dollar in additional resources, Mr. Speaker. I think that that makes sense. That's Saskatchewan common sense.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we have had an entire discussion this question period about the wasteful contracts of that Premier and that government with no contrition from that

government. And this is in set-up to what tomorrow is supposed to be budget day, a budget that we understand might have some tough choices in it.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are wondering how can they be serious about pretending to be making some tough choices in their budget if they can't even cut waste as obvious as that before us in these fat lean contracts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, the results of lean that have been achieved already within the system, I've talked about mental health and addictions, Mr. Speaker. I've talked about MRIs and increasing the capacity within the system without actually adding additional resources. Mr. Speaker, being more effective with the dollars. Those are just two examples, Mr. Speaker.

In Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, the lab achieved zero defects, Mr. Speaker, in reporting results and reduced by 96 per cent the overall time it takes to release test results, Mr. Speaker. This is using the additional resources . . . using the same resources within the system, Mr. Speaker, without having to go to closing beds, laying off staff, Mr. Speaker, closing facilities, closing hospitals like the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, at a time when we're bending the cost curve, seeing real results for the people of Saskatchewan, real results for our patients across the system.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Funding for Research Projects

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the privilege of being in Saskatoon to announce that the Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Advanced Education is providing more than \$2 million to the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Light Source for nine research projects through the Innovation and Science Fund. These funds are meant to help match federal dollars that come from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the value and importance of research and innovation and its lasting effects on our province, on our country, and right around the world.

The Speaker: — Well I believe that there is a ministerial statement being presented to the House. Unfortunately it's impossible to hear it. I would appreciate it if members would listen to the statement and to the response. And we don't need to be pointing fingers to figure out who was doing it. I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Innovation and Science Fund promotes excellence in research, and there are some key objectives that we have associated with this fund. First and foremost this fund helps to ensure that Saskatchewan is competing nationally for valuable federal dollars and also those from the private sector. Secondly

it helps to promote research partnerships with the private sector and with community-based collaborators. And third, Mr. Speaker, it helps in the recruitment and retention of some of the best and brightest, not simply from across the country, but around the world. And in fact today we had a fine example in that when we were able to hear from Dr. Graham George, originally from Stanford, who's now in Saskatchewan helping to ensure that we're doing world-leading research.

Mr. Speaker, this investment will further enhance Saskatchewan's growing reputation for innovative research and world-class life science facilities. Mr. Speaker, one of the nine projects included in today's funding announcement includes \$1.3 million for the BioXAS [biological X-ray absorption spectroscopy] life science beamline for X-ray absorptions spectroscopy at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. The BioXAS beamline will investigate the molecular form and microscopic location of metals in biological systems with unprecedented accuracy and sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, there are some key examples of the work that's going to be undertaken as a result of this investment. For example, the researchers are going to be looking at the role of metals in brain diseases like Alzheimer's and MS [multiple sclerosis], Mr. Speaker. Secondly they're going to be working on treatments for toxins, helping to make sure that people have a higher quality of life. And, Mr. Speaker, they're working to develop new drugs to help fight cancer and other diseases that affect and afflict so many Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, research and innovation projects are helping to ensure that not simply is the Saskatchewan economy continuing to grow, Mr. Speaker, growth that's recognized from across the country and well beyond, but it's also helping to ensure that there's a higher quality of life, not simply for today but for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, these are investments in our future, and they're making a difference today. Mr. Speaker, these nine research projects will support the growth plan that has been obviously put forward and is being promoted right across the province. It's also helping to meet the future needs of people across the province, especially when it comes to health care and health research.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to be at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan this morning to help make this announcement and this investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure to rise in response to the minister's statement, and thank him for providing an advance copy of the statement.

Again it's sort of a good news, bad news story here, Mr. Speaker, in terms of we're glad to see the dollars being extended for innovation and research. We're glad to see the continued great work at the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron being built upon. We're interested to see what's happening with BioXAS and the potential that that project has. The \$2.1 million over the nine

research projects, Mr. Speaker, we're glad to see that happening.

We can't help but be interested though in the timing, Mr. Speaker, in terms of coming on the eve of a budget and what this might mean for the news to come in terms of institutions that are already under considerable duress in terms of the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina. Certainly the role they play in the research agenda of this province and innovation and growth is very valuable, Mr. Speaker.

And so we're glad to see the dollars flowing today in terms of continuing to build on that work at the Light Source synchrotron. But we can't help but wonder what's going to come tomorrow in terms of the announcements that will be contained in the budget and how it will impact institutions like the University of Saskatchewan that are already under significant duress.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd again thank the minister for the advance copy of the notes, and we'll look forward to the budget for further news surely.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee . . . No, Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice report that the Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* be reported without amendment. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair that the . . . Okay. We have a new script and I went a little too close to the top here.

When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* without amendment and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

[14:30]

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 108 — *The Athletics Commission Act*

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 106, the legal professionals amendment Act, 2013 without amendment.

The Speaker: — And when shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment and that the bill be now the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 113, *The Powers of Attorney Amendment Act, 2013*. This is a bilingual bill, without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 113 — *The Powers of Attorney Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur les procurations*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole and that this bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 113, *The Powers of Attorney Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

An Hon. Member: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 114, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 114, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 114 — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Amendment Act, 2013*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 114, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 115, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall we consider this bill in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave be waived on consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 115, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 115 — *The Public Guardian and Trustee
Amendment Act, 2013***

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 115, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize . . . Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — What is the member's point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — In routine proceedings the Opposition House Leader named a number of communities in his petition. We've reviewed that petition and don't find the names of a number of the communities which he had referred to, and we'd ask that Mr. Speaker review the petition in that regard.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I had said that the communities that I was naming regarded the individuals that signed a number of petitions, including documents that I've provided to the Minister of Education. So in terms of the documents that they have that have been properly received, and in addition the petitions that have been signed by other communities, that was the content for the list of communities that were presented. So that's what was presented, Mr. Speaker, and I await your ruling.

The Speaker: — Order. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing order 16(3) is very clear as to what the requirements are for a petition.

The Speaker: — Both sides have made their presentation on the point of order. This is not a matter of debate at the present time. I will take this point of order under advisement, review the petitions and the statements that have been made, and come back with a decision at a later date.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 124, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. This is bilingual legislation and so there's also a full French version of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, normally when I'm preparing to respond to bills I look at the speech given by the minister as it relates to the

particular bill. And in this case the House Leader for the government rose to speak on behalf of the Minister of Health in moving Bill No. 124. And so when I then read what the House Leader said about this bill on December 2nd, on page 4341, I couldn't recognize that it has anything to do with the particular Bill 124 that we have here. And so, Mr. Speaker, this is a bill where we don't actually have an explanation for the bill that's being introduced.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the bill, looking at the bill and looking at *The Co-operatives Act* that this particular bill relates to how the previous bill, No. 123, affects a bilingual piece of legislation, *The Co-operatives Act*, and makes some changes in that Act to reflect that, there's nothing in what's been said by the House Leader on the bill, on behalf of the Minister of Health, that references anything about this.

So what is this bill? And I guess they're leaving it up to the opposition to define what they're trying to do as a government. Effectively what we have is a situation where community clinics have been incorporated under what was called *The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act* as one of the ways that community clinics could be incorporated. And when the previous legislation proposes to get rid of that Act, there needs to be amendments to *The Co-operatives Act* to reflect that, and these amendments have to be in both English and in French. And so what we have in section 2 of this bill is basically changes made to *The Co-operatives Act*. And it's not clear, unless you actually go to *The Co-operatives Act*, what's happening.

And so the first thing is under section 2. It says *The Co-operatives Act* is amended in a manner set out below. And then it says, subsection 2(2) of this Bill 124, that the section 198(2) which is in the present Act which is Act c.C.-37.3, *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* has been repealed and a new Act put in place.

And basically the new Act says this:

No person shall use the words 'community clinic' or «clinique communautaire» as part of its name or on premises that 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.

And so effectively what it says is, any community clinics that were set up before are going to be allowed to be continued, and then any new ones would have to be incorporated under *The Co-operatives Act*.

It then goes on in section 2(3) to say that section 265 of *The Co-operatives Act* is repealed. And section 265 of *The Co-operatives Act* is a section which effectively allows for community clinics that are created under *The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act* to be continued under *The Co-operatives Act*. Since the clause in 198(2) covers all of that, you don't need that other particular clause.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we have a bill here that's an amending bill of a bilingual bill, *The Co-operatives Act*. And I think the point that needs to be emphasized here is that community clinics are co-operatives, that no matter how they were created in the past they will now be regulated and dealt with under co-operatives legislation. I think that's a good thing. But I think it's important that when a minister puts forward information into the House that it's accurate, and especially if he passes it on to the House Leader to put that in for him, and that we appreciate, and I know the courts appreciate, when the minister's statements on second reading are an accurate reflection of what is actually happening with a particular bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, after spending some time sorting out exactly what could happen here, I know that some of my colleagues may have some comments about the legislation as it relates to *The Co-operatives Act* and community clinics. So at this time I will move to adjourn debate.

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 member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to wade into the debate about Bill No. 125, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2013*.

I'm particularly . . . It's always a privilege to get on our feet and have the debate and discussion about bills before us. But this particular one, Mr. Speaker, is near and dear to my heart. I had the opportunity, with some of the colleagues in this legislature, to sit on the Traffic Safety Committee last summer that came out of the opposition's push for the government to do something about our abysmal impaired driving rates. And the good thing about that committee, it wasn't just focused on impaired driving. We did cover a whole bunch of other issues or concerns around child seats, booster seat safety, around wildlife, around intersection safety — many, many different areas.

But for the purposes of today, I'm going to focus on two pieces that stand out for me, Mr. Speaker. The first piece I haven't had much opportunity to talk about is the changes around child restraints. Right now in Saskatchewan car seats for infants or smaller children are mandatory, but not booster seats. And one of the recommendations that came before us, before the Traffic Safety Committee, was from Dr. Susanna Martin with the Canadian Paediatric Society. She's the Saskatchewan director

on the Canadian Paediatric Society, and she presented about the need for mandatory use of booster seats in Saskatchewan around saving lives.

[14:45]

And I know, I think this will be . . . I want to say that I think, I hope, that there's an opportunity in committee for the minister to hear some of the evidence and make some amendments. But because we do have this piece of legislation before us, then this is the opportunity to do it right. And I think right now as it stands, this legislature is getting the booster seat piece wrong.

As it stands now, as the minister points out, that she says, "That's why we're making booster seats mandatory for children up to the age of seven or who meet certain height and weight guidelines outlined in the legislation." And you know I think there was in Dr. Susanna Martin's presentation, she talked about two things, the importance of two things — height and weight criteria. And that's so a seat belt, a lap belt, and a shoulder belt fit a young child or a young person properly, but the other piece of that was around age criteria. The Canadian Paediatric Society says the most effective legislation includes both an age criteria and a size criteria.

And her recommendation that she brought before the Traffic Safety Committee was for those who, based on a review of the literature, the Canadian Paediatric Society's injury prevention committee recommends booster seat use until a height of 145 centimetres, or roughly 4 foot 9, at which time an adult seat belt will appropriately fit. They also use the age criteria of over eight years of age and the weight criteria of over 36 kilograms or 80 pounds.

So the height and weight piece, and using the age of eight, was absolutely imperative. But right now, Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation outlines height and weight guidelines and the age of under seven.

Well I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, very clearly this legislation said it requires children under seven years of age who fall below the prescribed weight and height requirements must wear a booster seat. Well, Mr. Speaker, my daughter is six. She will be seven in December and currently weighs 50 pounds. And she's not a small child. She is in fact probably . . . I don't know where she falls on the percentile but I can tell you, in my experience of spending time with many other six-year-olds, that she is not small of stature. She's not a petite little thing, Mr. Speaker, and there's no way she will be reaching 80 pounds before her next birthday in nine months from now.

So I know the reality is, in order to keep our kids safe we need legislation that supports the evidence, Mr. Speaker. And I know the minister, the minister has heard from both the Prevention Institute of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Paediatric Society, flagging this under seven mark as a huge problem. And I'd like to read into the record actually two letters. I know the minister has received them and I hope we have an opportunity to discuss some of this in committee, and that the minister might be open to changing the age criteria. But a letter from the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, it says here . . . Just one moment, please. And this is actually directed to the Leader of the Opposition:

Dear Mr. Broten: The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute fully supports the decision of the Government of Saskatchewan to take action on many of the recommendations put forth by the Special Committee on Traffic Safety. These new recommendations will help reduce the rate of injury and fatality on Saskatchewan roads.

The Prevention Institute has been a strong advocate for child passenger safety for over 20 years. The institute takes on the lead role of child restraint education and certification in Saskatchewan. The implementation of booster seat legislation is a great step forward for the protection of child occupants in Saskatchewan. The use of age, weight, and height in the recommendation has the potential to make a very strong addition to *The Traffic Safety Act*.

However, the Prevention Institute would like to respectfully encourage the government to re-examine the age requirement put forth in the proposed legislation. Research has shown that a child who is 145 centimetres tall and who weighs 36 kilograms will achieve proper seat belt fit in most vehicles. The current recommendation for booster seat legislation uses the age of seven. A child who is seven years of age would have to exceed the 100th percentile on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention clinical growth charts for stature and weight to meet these criteria. Children with normal growth will not reach these height and weight benchmarks until they are between the ages of 8 and 12 years.

Most of Canada has some form of booster seat legislation. Of the eight provinces and one territory that have some form of legislation for children weighing more than 18 kilograms, four provinces use the age of nine in their legislation and include the 145 centimetre height and 36 kilogram weight restrictions as well. The critical factor in protecting children is how their bodies fit the seat belts. Serious harm can come to children who are placed in seat belts too early.

And that's again:

Serious injury or death can be caused by improper seat belt use by a child who is not yet ready to wear one. To ensure proper belt fit, a child should be 145 centimetres and 36 kilograms. This does not coincide with a child of the age of seven. Changing the booster seat legislation from the recommended age of seven years to the recommended age of nine years will have more effectiveness in protecting children in the event of a crash.

The Prevention Institute will continue to educate and train Saskatchewan residents and child passenger safety advocate partners in the importance of proper in-car restraint use. The institute will offer their services in public education to make this legislative change a smooth and positive one for parents and children in the province of Saskatchewan.

That is signed by Noreen Agrey, executive director, and Travis Holeha, the child traffic safety coordinator.

So the age of seven . . . And I completely concur with the age and height. The fact that, as I've talked about Ophelia who will be seven and wouldn't have to use a booster seat in nine months from now, Mr. Speaker, she is 50 pounds. She's got 30 pounds to pack on and considerable height to grow and she will not make it there before her next birthday. And I can tell you, I will be using a booster seat for my child until she reaches this age and height requirement.

Some of the stories, having sat on the Traffic Safety Committee . . . And I fully admit I looked at the recommendation in the traffic safety report and there was an oversight, Mr. Speaker. Recommendation 25, "The Traffic Safety Committee recommends booster seats be mandatory for children less than 145 centimetres in height and 36 kilograms in weight." We overlooked, Mr. Speaker, the age component.

When Dr. Martin presented, I know we were all around that table and both sides or all members of the Traffic Safety Committee were in unanimous support of Dr. Martin's recommendations. She described for us some of the injuries that can happen to children that she sees that are very real when a seat belt doesn't fit. So in fact, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it was an oversight on the part of the committee. I know that it was certainly an oversight on my part. And I know when Dr. Susanna Martin made the presentation that she emphasized not only the height and weight but the age as well. And I think when this bill moves to committee, I hope that the minister is open to hearing the evidence.

I'd also like to point out a letter by the Canadian Paediatric Society, actually again Dr. Susanna Martin who presented to the committee, and I just will find this letter here for you. And this letter is to Minister Harpauer, and I was cc'd [carbon copy] on this, Mr. Speaker. So this letter, I think it's important to read into the record that this age criteria is very important so the people of Saskatchewan know that the recommendations that came before the committee are based on evidence, Mr. Speaker, and the reality of children and how they grow.

And the point is it's not about age. It's about size and ensuring that a seat belt fits properly. If you're 43 years old and 4 foot 9, Mr. Speaker, the reality is you should probably be sitting, the reality is . . . The members opposite find this quite funny, Mr. Speaker, and I'm not quite sure why. The reality is they do recommend that adults who are smaller of stature, in order to make sure a seat belt fits you properly, use some kind of . . . something to lift you up as well. And I know many cars today have seats that rise and will make sure that you fit the seat belt better, but seat belts only work if they are fitted properly. They can cause a great deal of harm, Mr. Speaker, if they are not going across a person's body in the right way, and I'll talk about that in a minute.

But I think it's important to have these letters on the record when we go into committee to discuss this further. So this particular letter, dated November 20th, 2013, reads:

Dear Minister Harpauer: I would like to commend you on your decision to implement some of the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Commission, particularly that require booster seats for young children. This is a great step in the right direction towards increasing safety for this

vulnerable population, and it would put Saskatchewan in line with the majority of other provinces.

I do, however, encourage you to broaden the recommendations to encompass all children under the age of nine, the age adopted by the majority of provinces with such legislation. Harmonization of legislation across the country would greatly facilitate enforcement and support parents making appropriate choices for their children. In actual fact, the average age at which a height of 4 foot 9 and a weight of 36 kilograms are achieved is in excess of 10.

In support of this, I would like to call your attention to the enclosed Canadian Paediatric Society statement, "Transportation of infants and children in motor vehicles," written by a committee of experts and supported by the best available evidence.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, our sister organization, has also come out with similar recommendations for this age group, again derived by detailed analysis of the literature. As pediatricians, we regularly discuss safety with parents of children we see who universally want what is best for their children. Frequently they look towards legislation for what represents optimal practice, often assuming this is guided by expert opinion. This opportunity offers the province of Saskatchewan to align itself with other jurisdictions in legislating the optimal evidence-based protection shown to significantly reduce mortality in this age group. I would welcome any further conversations you would like to have in support of this recommendation.

And that is written by Dr. Susanna Martin who is the director of the Canadian Paediatric Society representing Saskatchewan.

So two voices, pretty strong voices there, Mr. Speaker, saying that evidence should inform policy. And I hope that when this moves to committee again that the minister will be open to making the amendments and changing the age from under seven to under nine to better reflect the growth of children and the safety of children, Mr. Speaker.

There are a few points . . . Just have to organize my papers here. In the attached brief that Dr. Martin sent to the minister it goes on again just to basically explain the height and weight criteria and why those are important, and actually some of the results of not using a booster seat. So I'd like to read this piece — booster seat legislation advocacy — again this is from the "Transportation of infants and children in motor vehicles" from the Canadian Paediatric Society, page 3, booster seat legislation advocacy.

The CPS supports booster seat legislation. Booster seat legislation is crucial to closing the gap for children who are too big for car seats and too small for the vehicle's seat belt assembly. Between 1997 and 2001, the death rate due to motor vehicle collisions dropped by 52% among children younger than five years of age, and by 25% among children 10 to 14 years of age, but did not drop at all for children [from] five to nine years of age — those in the booster seat age group. Additionally, a recent two-year

Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program study of lap-belt syndrome (a medical term for the pattern of injuries to a child's internal organs and spine caused by an ill-fitting seat belt), identified that 12 of the 28 confirmed cases occurred in children younger than eight years of age, with only one child restrained in a booster seat wearing only a lap belt. Almost one-third (30%) of children wearing a seat belt or a three-point restraint at the time of their motor vehicle crash suffered from lap-belt syndrome, with spinal fractures and permanent cord lesions occurring 43% and 25% of the time, respectively. The province of Quebec was the first to implement booster seat legislation in June 2002. Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick recently passed booster seat laws. The new Ontario booster seat law came into effect on September 1, 2005.

[15:00]

The bottom line here, Mr. Speaker, is injuries that occur if you're not wearing a seat belt properly because you don't fit in the car properly. The goal . . . And again having sat on the Traffic Safety Committee, I was there for Dr. Susanna Martin's presentation. All my colleagues concurred with her presentation. It was actually quite surprising. This was day three I think of the committee, day three or day four of our committee hearings, and there was unanimous support for her. She left the room and we all were quite astounded by what she had to say.

And many of us are parents, new parents, grandparents. I know my colleague from Cumberland who is a grandparent was completely shocked to hear that he's been putting his grandkids in car seats . . . improperly belting them, not in car seats, not in booster seats. They're over the age of the use of a need for a car seat, but he left that meeting saying, I have learned a pretty big lesson here; it's scary thinking what could happen to my grandchildren if we had had an accident.

And I know the members, every single member around that table thought that there was huge merit in this proposal. So I think it's important that we try to get it right, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and meet the criteria of effective legislation that's based on evidence. And as it stands now, again, children under seven, they will not meet that height criteria. Like again, I just want to mention Ophelia who will not make the height or weight criteria before her seventh birthday next December and could feasibly be out of a booster seat.

And I think it's important and it's incumbent upon this legislature to ensure that families who are looking for guidelines or best practice, that we can look to legislation as being best practice, and that is what will keep our children safe. So I look forward to the opportunity for committee and to have the chance to raise that with the minister, Mr. Speaker.

Another piece of the legislation are changes — again *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act* — around impaired driving. And I've had several occasions to get up in the legislature since these changes have come forward to talk a little bit about this. So last summer when we had our hearings there were some very good ideas presented to us on how to reduce impaired driving. And many of these changes . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, it was

great to work on this bipartisan or multi-party committee, or bipartisan committee, I guess. It's an all-party Traffic Safety Committee, and for the most part I think things . . . It moved along quite smoothly and respectfully and collaboratively, and I think we've come up with some good recommendations. But I think the members on the committee and then subsequently this government has chosen to ignore evidence that was put before them when it comes to keeping people in Saskatchewan safe, Mr. Speaker. So I want to talk a little bit about the record here in Saskatchewan when it comes to impaired driving before I speak specifically to the legislation.

So SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] statistics: between 2002 and 2012, alcohol was responsible for 41 per cent of the fatalities and 12 per cent of the crashes here in the province. And SGI presented to the committee and we heard that Saskatchewan has "stagnated" when it comes to reducing impaired driving. And compared to other jurisdictions, "Saskatchewan is over the top in death and injuries."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving estimates that Saskatchewan has the highest per capita rate of alcohol-related road crash deaths among the provinces. An estimated 9.76 of every 100,000 people die because of impaired driving here. Almost 10 per 100,000 die here in Saskatchewan because of impaired driving, Mr. Speaker, and we need to compare that to the national average that's 3.17 per 100,000, Mr. Speaker. So that's a considerable difference. So an estimated 9.76 out of every 100,000 people die because of impaired driving here in Saskatchewan, but the national average is 3.17 people in 100,000. And we have managed to maintain this dubious record for more than a decade. So we have clung on to this awful record for quite some time.

So I'm very glad that this committee did take some of the recommendations around impaired driving, whether it's of alcohol or other substances, and have incorporated them. But backing this up, I think the members from the government side of the House on the Traffic Safety Committee missed some key evidence or chose to ignore some key evidence that was before us.

So the reality here, the Canadian context and the Saskatchewan context here a little bit: impaired driving death rate has been going down across Canada and up here in Saskatchewan. There's a slide from a presentation of MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] Canada that shows that between 2000 and 2009, our impaired-related crash deaths have gone up by almost 23 per cent while Canada's has gone down by 17 per cent. Clearly we're doing something wrong here in Saskatchewan, so this legislation is a welcome change, but it doesn't go far enough. I think some of the things that the minister, both the Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee talked about and the minister talked about, is first steps. We'll start here. Well frankly, Mr. Speaker, that isn't good enough. This isn't just a place to start. When we're going from having the most dubious record in the country, just taking an incremental approach is not satisfactory.

So we have an opportunity here to do some really, really positive things that can save lives, save people's families from being shattered. Anybody who's lost a loved one to the senselessness of impaired driving . . . I can't even imagine, Mr.

Speaker. But we have an opportunity to help keep people in Saskatchewan just a little bit safer through common sense. And this government has chosen not to do this in this bill.

So the opposition members, we put forward a minority opinion — the opposition representatives on the Traffic Safety Committee. And why did we put forward this? I will tell you a bit about the minority opinion, but I want to talk a little bit about what's happened in two of the Western provinces, our neighbours in Alberta and BC [British Columbia] and what we've heard from the presenters before the Traffic Safety Committee.

So Doug Beirness from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has been involved in road safety research, mainly focused on impaired driving for the past 30 years. And Andy Murie, he's the executive director from MADD Canada; Fay Rorke, she's with the driving without impairment program since 1995. So she works with those who've been caught with blood alcohol levels not allowed, some in the administrative range, so that's over .04 and up, Mr. Speaker.

So we heard from policy experts. We heard from people whose business it is to know about impaired driving. We heard from people who work with impaired drivers. And they all said that . . . and others who were before the committee as well, but I think those three people are of note here. But they had all said that short-term vehicle impoundments in the warning range were absolutely imperative. So the warning range is from .05 to .08 in other provinces. Here the warning range is at .04. But both Alberta and BC have implemented short-term, three-day vehicle impoundments in the warning range.

So when you hit .08, Mr. Speaker, you are federally criminally impaired, but provinces have the ability to put in place legislation to try to nip that behaviour in the bud in the warning range. And every province has done that, Mr. Speaker. And Alberta, well BC actually was the . . . I want to tell you a little bit about in 2010, BC implemented a range of measures to curb impaired driving accidents and fatality which included these immediate vehicle impoundments for both those impaired in the warning range and those who blew over .08 which, as I said, is a criminal offence.

And so last year, Alberta followed suit with a three-day vehicle impoundment for those caught on the first offence in the warning range. So in the first two years, the fatality rate involving alcohol dropped by 50 per cent. In Alberta, fatal crashes . . . And it was early on. Alberta had only been in this process for a short while, but in Alberta fatal crashes where alcohol was involved dropped by 46 per cent between July and December 2012 compared to the five-year average for those same months.

And those, I've been told by people who work in this field, are incredible early results. In a conversation, one of the presenters, Doug Beirness, had this to say: "The world changed in British Columbia." So we have evidence presented before us by people who know this well. They know this field well. There's people who know people well. As I said, Fay Rorke works with those who have been caught with impaired . . . caught because of impaired driving. So I don't know why, I still cannot fathom why the members on the Traffic Safety Committee refused to

accept that the three-day impoundment in the warning range was effective.

Some of the other evidence that we heard, and this is included in our minority opinion, is the reality is that we were provided with evidence that those who get caught with a lower blood alcohol concentration and issued a short-term suspension are almost eight times more likely than the average driver to be charged with a Criminal Code driving-while-impaired offence within two years. So those people who are caught in the warning range are eight times more likely than you and me, Mr. Speaker, to be charged with a criminal offence in the next two years. So catching people in the warning range and again, nipping this behaviour in the bud is the opportunity to save lives.

So those warning range, those caught in the administrative area, the .05 to .08, or the warning range, are in fact considered to be riskier drivers and at risk for more dangerous offences. So the thing about a three-day impoundment, and this is what we'd heard, Mr. Speaker, is that it sends a clear message that our province wants to prevent fatalities and injuries on our roads. The thing about a three-day impoundment in that warning range, you can issue a licence suspension, which is included in the recommendations, and that's being changed, increasing the licence suspension, but the reality is a licence suspension is a pretty easy thing to hide from your partner, from your parents, perhaps the person who owns or shares the car with you, but it's pretty hard to hide a vehicle impoundment. So if you go out on Friday night and you drink too much and are below .06 and you lose the car for three days, you'll have to deal with the consequences of how you make work work, how you make family commitments work. I know in my own family, to be without a vehicle would be a big deal. I'm constantly running my children back and forth. A vehicle is a pretty important tool. It also is the shame and the embarrassment of being caught in the warning range. It's a pretty strong signal to send. The goal is to change behaviour and to keep people from driving while impaired. This should be a culture-changing opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

And nobody is saying that you can't have a drink with supper. In fact I know in the minister's comments . . . I just need to find . . . In a scrum, Mr. Speaker, she had made the comment that that's two glasses of wine at supper; that doesn't make people high risk. Well in fact that is not . . . A blood alcohol concentration chart that was provided by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, you can have up to two drinks in a three-hour period as a 140-pound female and not be over the . . . Well two drinks will put you at .02 in three hours, Mr. Speaker. For a man, three drinks, a 200-pound man will put you at .02 as well. And then women, it starts to go up slightly more exponentially. Three drinks in a three-hour period puts you at .06. But a man could have, a 200-pound man could have four drinks in a three-hour period and still be below the administrative range, Mr. Speaker.

So this isn't about saying you can't have a glass of wine with dinner, but this is about recognizing that at .05 you start to be impaired. That's why we put sanctions in place, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's interesting that this . . . The recommendations that were made were very harsh at .08 and rightfully so, Mr. Speaker, rightfully so. But I need to point out that there is a

one-drink difference for a 200-pound man between the administrative and the criminal range, so at five drinks for a 200-pound man puts you at .06 and six drinks puts you at .08. So there's a very little difference, and we're willing to be incredibly tough on those people who take that one extra drink but are not willing to be quite so tough on those who are still considered in the warning range, Mr. Speaker. The goal should be about stopping behaviour before it gets there.

[15:15]

I think one of the other things that the minister pointed out that some of these changes are all about saving young lives and changing behaviour. But the reality is, Mr. Speaker, and Doug Beirness presented this to us, drinking driver fatalities according to age, the 20 to 24 and 25 to 34 is the highest percentage, Mr. Speaker. Actually the 16- to 19-year-olds . . .

The Speaker: — Perhaps the bullpen at the back would like to take it out someplace else to carry on their conversations. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the reality is, one of the most problematic age groups is the 20- to 34-year age range when it comes to drinking driver fatalities. And so we've put this . . . This government has put the emphasis on those under 19 — which is important; there needs to be some effort there — but is ignoring where some of the real problem is. And putting in place an administrative sanction where you lose your car for three days could address some of that piece, Mr. Speaker.

So it's incredibly disappointing that both the members on the Traffic Safety Committee ignored key evidence, and the minister had an opportunity to take a look at the minority opinion and act on that and chose not to do that. And I honestly . . . I do not understand why. It makes absolutely no sense to me, Mr. Speaker, when the evidence is before you that can save lives and has had dramatic effect. You've got people who have worked in traffic safety for 30 years saying that these laws in Alberta and BC have changed the landscape dramatically. Saskatchewan doesn't have time for incrementalism. People and families don't have time to continue to lose loved ones because of impaired driving.

I have in fact a letter from the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police around Bill 125. And when we were looking for feedback on some of the legislation, as we always do in opposition, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police responded to us. And with respect to Bill 125, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act*, so this is:

The Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police is supportive to the amendments proposed. We do have comment on the following sections: over .04, sections 146 to 146.4. We suggest vehicle impoundment on the first offence over .04. The legislation does have provisions for impoundment for the second offence for seven days. We believe impoundment on the first offence is similar to the Alberta and British Columbia models which have proved successful.

So the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police support

the minority opinion that came with the traffic safety report and agree that this is an opportunity to save lives and prove to do some really good things for the people of Saskatchewan. Again, MADD Canada was happy with some parts of the legislation, but we have a letter — again as we reach out to stakeholders to find out what their perspectives on legislation — and MADD Canada wrote us a letter saying that:

With respect to Bill 125, we are very pleased with the majority of the proposed changes. We believe these improvements, once implemented, will lower the number of impairment-related crashes, deaths, and injuries in the province.

We were, however, disappointed to see that a matching vehicle impoundment for 72 hours was not included in section 146 to 146(4). We believe that vehicle impoundment, particularly with the first warn range licence suspension, has contributed to more than a 40 per cent reduction in alcohol-related road crash deaths in both Alberta and British Columbia.

And that is a letter dated February 11th, 2014, from Andrew Murie, the chief executive officer of MADD Canada.

So those are I think two of my bigger concerns with this legislation. Mr. Speaker, the fact that booster seats . . . It's great to have some booster seat legislation before us, but as we've heard from people who know the issue well, it's missing the mark and will not do what it could do, Mr. Speaker. And when it comes to impaired driving, this government has completely missed the boat on changing behaviours in that warning range, making sure that people who again are at high risk, those again caught in the warning range are eight times more likely than you and I to get a Criminal Code offence within two years.

Do we not want to stop that behaviour, Mr. Speaker? I believe that we do. I know, as a mother of a daughter who will hopefully have her licence in two weeks, Mr. Speaker, I think about her being out on the road, and the last person I'd want to see come in her direction is someone who's been drinking and driving.

So I look forward to, once this bill is in committee, having the opportunity to discuss with the minister the booster seats piece and some of the impaired driving pieces as well, but we'll have that chance in committee. And with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate of 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.

Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 128** — *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to rise in my place and join debate on Bill No. 128, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Employment Act and to repeal The Public Service Essential Services Act*.

This is an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, because it speaks to the immediate sort of history of this province. It speaks to relationships that I think have been damaged by this government. And it speaks to matters that are as we speak, Mr. Speaker, before the Supreme Court. And I guess the interesting thing about this legislation, on the minister's second reading speech he talked about the need to balance off collective bargaining rights and labour rights, which of course are guaranteed under the Charter, with public safety concerns.

And you know, on the face of that it's, you know, that in and of itself is a fairly agreeable statement of the terms. But when you place that in the context of actions taken by this government and the way that the relationship has been allowed to deteriorate with working people in this province and the way that this government came out of the gates in 2007 with the battle cry of a fair and balanced labour legislation, Mr. Speaker . . . Of course, you know, for the news fans out there, that's the slogan for Fox News, and it was not surprising that, you know, Fox News's idea of fair and balanced seemed to find its way into this government's approach to labour legislation. They took a level playing field and rolled back and forth across it with a bit of a bulldozer, Mr. Speaker.

And of course, we see that that set in play a series of events that found their way to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. We find that that has continued on to the Supreme Court of Canada.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what a waste of time and effort that represents in terms of on behalf of the resources that working men and women pool together to advance their cause, to protect their rights under the Charter, Mr. Speaker, the way that the legislation has, you know . . . What has preceded Bill No. 128 that we're considering here today, the various misadventures that this government has gotten up to in terms of taking a run at the rights of working men and women in this province, it's again the legislation in and of itself, you know, a mix of some good, some bad. But you place it in that broader context, Mr. Speaker, and it doesn't near begin to repair the damage that this government has wrought upon the . . . in terms of the relationship that a government should have with its public service and with working men and women in this province.

So in terms of the failure to consult on the part of this government with those whose rights are most directly affected by labour legislation, working men and women, this government has shown itself, historically over the past several years, Mr. Speaker, not capable of doing a great job. Now I'll give the current Minister of Labour this, Mr. Speaker. He gets common courtesy. He gets the notion that you should pick up the phone if you're going to be taking steps that have a dramatic impact on the livelihood and well-being of working men and women. You know, there's some other files outstanding, Mr. Speaker, that we await action on. But certainly we've got other things to say about that, Mr. Speaker.

But the bottom line being, as much of a charm offensive as is mounted by this government to try and repair the damage done, well again, it's something that finds its way into loss of productivity in terms of, you know, further instability in what has been a situation where there's been relative labour stability, labour peace which in terms has . . . It's been good for productivity in the economy, but it's also been good for productivity and prosperity for the families of those working men and women, and that that has been jeopardized. And again we see, you know, a partial attempt to repair that damage here in Bill No. 128 is unfortunate to say the least, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of striking that balance between, you know, collective bargaining rights and the concerns for public safety, there have been different approaches taken to that question historically, Mr. Speaker, and different questions in different jurisdictions. Certainly there were, if the government wanted to move in that regard, there were other models to seize upon. But it's telling, I think, Mr. Speaker, that Justice Dennis Ball struck down *The Public Service Essential Services Act* and the way that again this government's, this unwillingness to listen, its stubborn character, Mr. Speaker, its refusal to look to other jurisdictions to see what might be working better. And of course the way that this winds up is in the courts, Mr. Speaker, that really serves no one's interest.

There is a great deal of taxpayer money that's I'd say wasted in that regard in terms of a hugely unproductive endeavour flowing from the fact that this government didn't do its due diligence in the first place, didn't consult properly in the first place, and then, you know, makes it up on the taxpayer's dime. And then for working men and women, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that they have worked together to advance their interest to protect their rights, it's not productive for them in any event either.

And then in terms of the broader economy, in terms of society, again it's, you know, when you take what had been marked by relative stability, relative of labour peace, that is not served well either, Mr. Speaker, by the record of this government.

I know that our Labour critic has done a tremendous job of consulting, to reaching out, and will have more to say in the debate as this proceeds, Mr. Speaker. And I know that other of my colleagues as well are very interested in this piece of legislation, but we'll await those observations for the days and weeks ahead, Mr. Speaker. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Employment Act and to repeal The Public Service Essential Services Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 128, *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 129

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 129 — *The Executive Government Administration Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to rise today to enter into the debate on Bill 129, *The Executive Government Administration Act*. This was introduced I believe earlier, on March 3rd, 2014, so fairly recently it came to our attention. And it's a very complex and complicated piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and certainly we will need some time to really absorb all the impacts that are to be felt by a bill of this sort. What we see is the minister is attempting to, along with the next bill I'm going to speak to which is Bill 129, is attempting to consolidate the provisions of a number of Acts which relate to the organization of this government.

[15:30]

These are probably not something that the ordinary citizen of Saskatchewan spends a lot of time worrying about or thinking about, but it does affect the way our government is organized and run. A large part of the Act is some very mundane type of amendments changing the name of the word department to ministry, which was the choice of this government is to change the name. That's a semantical change and I would say maybe two-thirds of this Act deals with removing the word department and substituting the word ministry. There's a whole multitude of clauses that deal with that.

So those are sort of housekeeping type changes that don't require a lot of comment, Mr. Speaker, but there are some interesting changes in terms of the organization of government that we have to wonder where this is coming from. And I'll speak a little bit about those today, Mr. Speaker, although I think that, you know, we'll need some time to really fully understand the impact of these changes and exactly what it is the government's trying to accomplish by changing the organization of the government and the Legislative Assembly and also the executive. And you know, each one of those . . . The executive has a very particular role, and they have significant, in fact I would say almost all of the power of government is located within the executive.

So we have to look at these changes very carefully just to make sure that the public is being well served and that the interests of democracy are being served. And that should be paramount and first and foremost in the minds of any government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the role and the importance of the democratic process when you give power to any elected officials. And so these are things that require close scrutiny, and I think we're going to want to be able to avail ourselves of some expert advice on these types of changes to see what the real implications will be.

Some of the things the minister is trying to do is to do some, perhaps, clarification and consolidation of some of the powers of ministers. Grant-making authority, for example, and agreement-making powers are being changed and consolidated. I think redundancy in some Acts, they're attempting to get rid of redundancy by locating a lot of this into *The Executive*

Government Administration Act, this new bill. And they're also doing things like changing the names of certain bills which start with the word department because we don't use department anymore. So those are again some more semantical changes.

I think for me, and this is something I find myself commenting on quite frequently in these debates, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the regulation powers that this government has and how there seems to be a trend to use that more rather than have scrutiny in the legislature and by the public of the actions of this government. And I think this bill represents one of the most egregious examples of that removal of scrutiny that I have seen since I took up this position, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And in particular, I want to refer to section 9 of the new bill, which refers to executive government. And I'd like to share that section with you. So section 9, the marginal note says it's the organization of executive government. So we're talking here about the organization of the most powerful body in the province of Saskatchewan, which is the executive government. And 9(1) reads:

Notwithstanding any Act or other law, but subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, [so here we have the regulation power of the Lieutenant Governor in Council] on the recommendation of the President of the Executive Council, determine the organization of the executive government and of its various ministries, and for that purpose may:

- (a) establish, continue or vary any ministry and determine the objects and purposes of the ministry;
- (b) disestablish any ministry;
- (c) determine or change the name of any ministry.

Now on the face of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that makes probably a lot of sense, and it reflects the way things have been.

I think the change here that's very notable, and that the public needs to take account of, is subsection (2) because tucked in this clause is a subsection that reads as follows:

Sections 15 to 17 of *The Regulations Act, 1995* do not apply to regulations made pursuant to subsection (1).

So okay, what does that mean? We see in here that something else doesn't apply here when we see the executive government establishing ministries. So what are those sections that are being referred to? Well, Mr. Speaker, if you look at *The Regulations Act, 1995*, you will see that section 15 requires the registrar to give the Clerk a copy of every filed regulation. So all of a sudden there's no longer a requirement to give a copy of these regulations to the Clerk. That's concerning.

Secondly, section 16 which doesn't apply anymore says:

Every filed regulation stands permanently referred to any committee that the Legislative Assembly may appoint for any purpose directed by the Legislative Assembly.

So here we have these regulations now not being referred to a committee. That's really concerning, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's something that people should be looking at closely to see if the interests of democracy are being served here.

And I think the most concerning is the fact that section 17 of *The Regulations Act* is now not in play. And in that one, we have the power of the Legislative Assembly to "disapprove of a regulation or any part of a regulation," and also that the Legislative Assembly can "require a regulation or any part of a regulation to be repealed or amended."

This is a very important, essential feature of democracy, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's what comes into this Assembly and what is actually reviewed publicly by this Assembly. And if we have an executive government that is not revealing the regulations and actually amending the Act so that they don't have to reveal these regulations and that they don't come up for discussion in the Legislative Assembly, I think we are seeing an erosion of democratic principles here that are quite concerning and should be reviewed very carefully by, I would say, legal experts and constitutional experts and experts of democracy who can point out to us whether or not this can erode the actual democratic process.

This government has a very large majority. That's very obvious for anybody walking into the Chamber. We see a government that has a lot of people sitting in the backbenches who want to have a piece of the action. And we see this type of bill is giving way to allowing more people to have roles I guess in executive government that aren't traditionally viewed as appropriate. And I think those are concerning as well.

We have changes made to the legislative secretaries' appointments. Now they don't have to be renewed. Somehow there was a paperwork problem for this government. They had a lot of difficulty with the paperwork involved in getting a Legislative Secretary reappointed. I'm not sure what kind of paperwork we're talking about here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but again, this is something that seems to water down the role of executive government. It's watering down the role of cabinet and the role of the ministers to their ministries, and it's something that I think we should take a very careful look at.

Another part that's interesting in this bill is some changes to *The Federal-Provincial Agreements Act*. And this is an Act that I dealt with frequently as a federal lawyer back in the day. And it was a bit of a frustration and I think sometimes questionable because every time the provincial government was required to sign an agreement with the federal government, it would have to go under this Act and it required an order in council.

I know this is a real frustration for people from an administrative point of view or the bureaucrats have a lot of difficulty with this because it's complicated. And often the types of agreements that are entered into may not require an actual scrutiny by Executive Council or the Lieutenant Governor in Council. However, you know, and again in the balance of transparency and accountability, those are the types of things that can be reviewed then by the public when the regulations require the Lieutenant Governor in Council to pass an order approving any agreement entered into federally and provincially, so now won't require approval unless it's more

than \$50,000. That probably is a fair mark for this type of agreement. And again it's bringing it in line with other types of agreements that ministers have authority to sign under their own Acts or under *The Executive Government Administration Act*.

So I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, we haven't had a chance to really look at this in any great detail, it having only been introduced less than a week ago. And certainly we're going to want to be able to examine it with some detail and consult with constitutional experts and experts in terms of government organization to see if this is appropriate or if it's merely an approach on the part of this government which is very heavy on the backbenches to provide some busy work for some of the backbenchers to keep them satisfied, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So again I think other of my colleagues are going to want to have a chance to comment on this, and we certainly want to be able to reach out and discuss this with some experts in the area. So at this point I would like to move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 129, *The Executive Government Administration Act*.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — The member has moved adjournment on debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 130

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 130 — *The Executive Government Administration Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Executive Government Administration Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is a bill following up on the bill I just spoke to, which is Bill 129, *The Executive Government Administration Act*. And this one is some consequential amendments that also arise out of the previous Act. Obviously these are bills that are bilingual, and therefore the government has to treat them separately when doing the amendments.

In Bill 129 there were a number of amendments that were required to . . . many, many Acts. And I didn't really get into that in the previous discussion, but if you look at the table you will see all the amendments that are required. But we had to separate out ones that are in English and French, so the bills that are being amended here for whatever reason are in English and French. That includes *The Adoption Act, The Co-operatives Act, The Evidence Act, The Interpretation Act, the Legislative Assembly Act, 2007, The Tabling of Documents Act, 1991*, and then it goes on to a few more different types of Acts, *Queen's Bench Act, Vital Statistics Act, Department of Health Act*, and so on and so forth.

So these are basically further administrative changes that arise out of the various amalgamations and consolidations that we see

in the previous bill. As the minister indicated in his comments last week, this is the bilingual companion to the previous bill. And he indicates in his comments that the most significant changes are the amendments to *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007*.

It's an interesting note, that I'm not sure the full impact of this. But we note that members of the Legislative Assembly will now be allowed or permitted to be marriage counsellors. So that's maybe something new that we hadn't been able to do before. And also I think again, to give some of the backbenchers a little more things to do, it allows them to become members of Crown corporations without being a member of Executive Council. So it provides the backbenchers with a few more duties that will keep them busy and occupied in their efforts as backbenchers. So that's a good thing. I think I would like everyone to be busy, and it's probably a good thing for backbenchers to have some things to do.

It goes on to say how it removes part of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and incorporates it into *The Executive Government Administration Act* which was out of the main bill, Bill 129, and it deals with some name changes.

So basically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are some consequential changes that come out of the previous bill that I just spoke to. Again, it's fairly recent that this bill was introduced, only on March 3rd, so we haven't had a lot of time to consider it fully — a couple of weeks. But we will be taking a closer look at it. I know that other members of my caucus are going to want to wade in on the debate. So at this point I would like to move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 130.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — The member has made motion to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — 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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Another bill that's come up for debate today, Bill 122, and I'm happy to be part of the debate and privileged to be able to enter into debate on this bill. Bill 122 is *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013*. And it's a fairly, again, another complex Act, and we're certainly going to have a series of questions for the minister in relation to some of the details in this Act. Today I will intend to take a more cursory view and review of what the minister's been saying, but certainly we'll be looking at this in much more detail in committee.

[15:45]

The minister's indicated there's four primary themes. And in the changes in this Act, it's a bilingual Act, and we see fairly long. So it's a 64-page Act. So you know, there's a lot of details in this and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I won't propose to go through all of those today here in the Assembly, but would certainly want to be able to take a look at it when we're in committee.

The minister's indicated some of the themes that are found in this Act. First is an authority for First Nations gaming licensing authority to register on-reserve charitable gaming employees and suppliers. So I think this is something that is a follow-up and a commitment through the various gaming framework agreements that have been entered into with First Nations and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. So for example, we see the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] has created Indigenous Gaming Regulators, or IGRs, since 2007, and they've been responsible for regulating gaming on-reserve.

I think the view of the government here is that the regulation of the games on-reserve are important in that Indian gaming regulators have been doing a good job along with SLGA, Sask Liquor and Gaming Authority, to have a co-operative relationship that would be beneficial to both parties. So I think the discussions with IGR and SLGA are ongoing and the agreement and the provision of authority to the IGR requires some amendments which are found in this Act. And as the minister indicated, the authority would be to provide a First Nations gaming licensing authority as an IGR to register on-reserve charitable gaming employees and suppliers.

So I think this is something that recognizes the good work that's been done by FSIN and the Indian Gaming Authority in becoming experts really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the field of gaming and providing good oversight and good direction and good employment opportunities as well for First Nations people in the gaming industry.

Another thing that this is establishing is the ability for SLGA, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, to create subsidiaries. And it's not exactly clear why the SLGA is looking for this. The minister indicated that these subsidiary corporations are common accounting and management tools used to manage assets and corporations. She indicated that this would allow SLGA to fully explore options and ensure savings and benefits are present. There's no clear indication on the part of the minister how that is desirable and what it is in the operations of SLGA that require this type of division of bookkeeping and accounting. And so certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are going to want to ask those types of questions of the minister and her officials when we get a chance in committee to do so.

She also talks about removal of outdated legislation. Now this is something I found interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because apparently SLGA has the discretionary ability at this point to require a permittee to stock beer manufactured in Saskatchewan. And so what the minister is saying is that because it's not being enforced in recent memory there's no need to regulate. But that is kind of an out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach, and I worry about that when we see regulations being eliminated because they're not being enforced. I think that begs

the question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why aren't they being enforced? And certainly that's something I think that is the role of government, is to ensure oversight and management of different areas, including of SLGA, Sask Liquor and Gaming Authority. So if they have the regulations and they haven't been enforcing them, they're getting rid of them? I'm not sure that that makes a lot of logical sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly we'll want to quiz the minister a little bit more on that area if we have the chance in committee.

There's again a . . . seems to be a focus here on getting rid of red tape for business and the role of government in the effective regulation of alcohol. So she's indicating that in this bill there's an amendment that puts "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."

Again, that's an interesting provision, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to have more questions on in terms of how it would be enforced, because to require a person that's permitted to serve alcohol . . . And I think about maybe a baseball tournament in a small town. The local host organizing committee gets a liquor permit to serve beer in the rink. They set up a cabaret-style beer gardens. And so these are volunteers that are putting on an event for the community.

And we all know that we shouldn't provide alcohol to someone who appears to be intoxicated. There's sort of an objective test that can be applied there when you look at someone and decide whether they're intoxicated. Again it has fuzzy lines around it, but I think it's a little easier to refuse to serve alcohol to someone who appears to be intoxicated, but for me as a volunteer to ensure that they're not in possession of beverage alcohol, that gets a little trickier, you know?

And I think of maybe a hockey dad who is responsible for the permit, and there may be some young women who are drinking and he's not sure. Is he going to insist on finding out whether they have alcohol on their person? It could be a really touchy little situation for some of these folks, and I think this puts a pretty heavy onus on the permittee to regulate what people are choosing to do with alcohol.

So again we're going to have a lot of questions for the minister on how that exactly will roll out and what are going to be the responsibilities. And I think really of permittees who are doing this as a community organization or for community events. Obviously it also applies to regular permittees who operate beverage rooms or hotels, bars, and things like that, restaurants.

And you know, those people are more I guess used to serving alcohol and realize the implications of what happens when you have a liquor licence. But even then to ask a permittee to ensure that somebody isn't in possession of alcohol almost, you know, makes me think there may be some sort of searches involved. And I think then we get into a whole issue of privacy and concerns from that perspective. So this may not actually stand up if there are challenges to it. So we'll want to ask a lot of questions around that too, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And finally the minister indicates that there are quite a number, a large number of smaller housekeeping amendments that are

just looking at consistency and ensuring redundancy doesn't exist. So those are the types of things that we know that the good folks over at Justice take time to look at, when they have an opportunity to review a bill, then those little details that sometimes need to be reviewed from time to time and fixed up are being looked after. So I won't go into a lot of detail or comment on that at this point in time.

She also indicated that some of these changes would be putting definitions for terms used in the gaming sector to better allow SLGA to respond to changes in the industry. So just updating the language. Better organization of clarification of sections related to the Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission. So some reorganization of sections in the Act, things like that.

So I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to want to be able to ask a lot more specific questions about that to the minister when we have an opportunity in committee. So that would be the extent of my comments at this time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 122, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2013* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Carried.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — To which committee shall this bill be referred?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 122, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013* be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to join in on debate of Bill No. 123, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. And I guess just some opening comments and looking at some of the stuff that's being repealed in this Act.

And we look at the dental program that did do some great work in the schools and young people in our province. Our children had dental programs that were there. And what they're doing by repealing this . . . And I want to talk about that because I think a lot of, even myself, was fortunate going through the programs. You had that in your schools when you had problem with your dental. And we know that, you know, a kid suffering with dental, we see that going on even today: some families, you know, cannot provide the dental, don't have dental programs for their employment. The place where they're employed doesn't have a program.

This had provided an opportunity for those students to have a dental program in the school or they were taken from the school to a dental therapist and, you know, their teeth were taken care of back then. It was a good program. A lot of people benefited from it. I guess if you're a child and you're having toothaches it would have been hard. So this was a good program ran at that time. I wish, you know, we continue a program like this. I guess with record revenue the government could have done something like this, but unfortunately that's not their priority.

But having said that, there are dental programs out there that through your own, I guess, insurance, private insurance through your employer where you can get coverage to have basic dental and stuff. Some of these programs are still running, and there's opportunities for students to get dental programs. So having said that, we wish, with the record revenue, the government would have continued or would have thought to introduce something like that. Who knows with all the revenue that come in. But having said that, they're repealing that. They no longer need it on the books so they're taking a . . .

There's also talking about some of the I guess religious groups that used to operate our hospitals and provide health services to many Saskatchewan families. I think about St. Paul's. I think it was one run by nuns, you know. There was an organization, you know, Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert. It's closed now, but it was run by the nuns. And you know, I remember going there when I was a young kid and the service you provided and the service that they had provided to many residents.

And those are some of the areas where we had those religious, you know, congregations looked after the health services. And it had to be in an Act, and this Act that they're repealing gave the powers to those groups, to organizations to operate our health services at the time. But now we have the health regions, and they operate that way. So they're repealing this Act saying that no longer they'll service . . .

There's a few other things that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they're repealing in this provision to repeal. Some of the heritage stuff they're talking about, they're repealing that, and seniors . . . So these are Acts I guess at the end of the day the government feels that they don't need to be on the records. Maybe they're not using them. They're not needed anymore to be on the books, so they repeal them. They remove them from legislation so they're not there carrying on. We've heard people talk about that.

They may say from a government side that they're repealing these because they don't use them. They're not needed anymore. But I guess at the end of the day, you know, we don't

always agree on those things. There might be some of the Acts that they could continue to move forward on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and could implement and keep those Acts, and I guess use that Act to continue the dental program if they wanted to. So there's provision for government, but this time the government has decided to repeal it.

And at this time . . . In committee there might be some more questions that we have to ask, but at this point it's repealing some of the legislation in the Acts that the government thinks it doesn't need anymore or it's not warranted, and there is no use and there's no way that they go back. So that's kind of what repealing this Act is. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments, so I'll adjourn debate on this bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — The member has adjourned debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Carried. I recognize Government House Leader.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:00.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

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Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Hon. Rob Norris

Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Jim Reiter

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

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
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Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General