



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

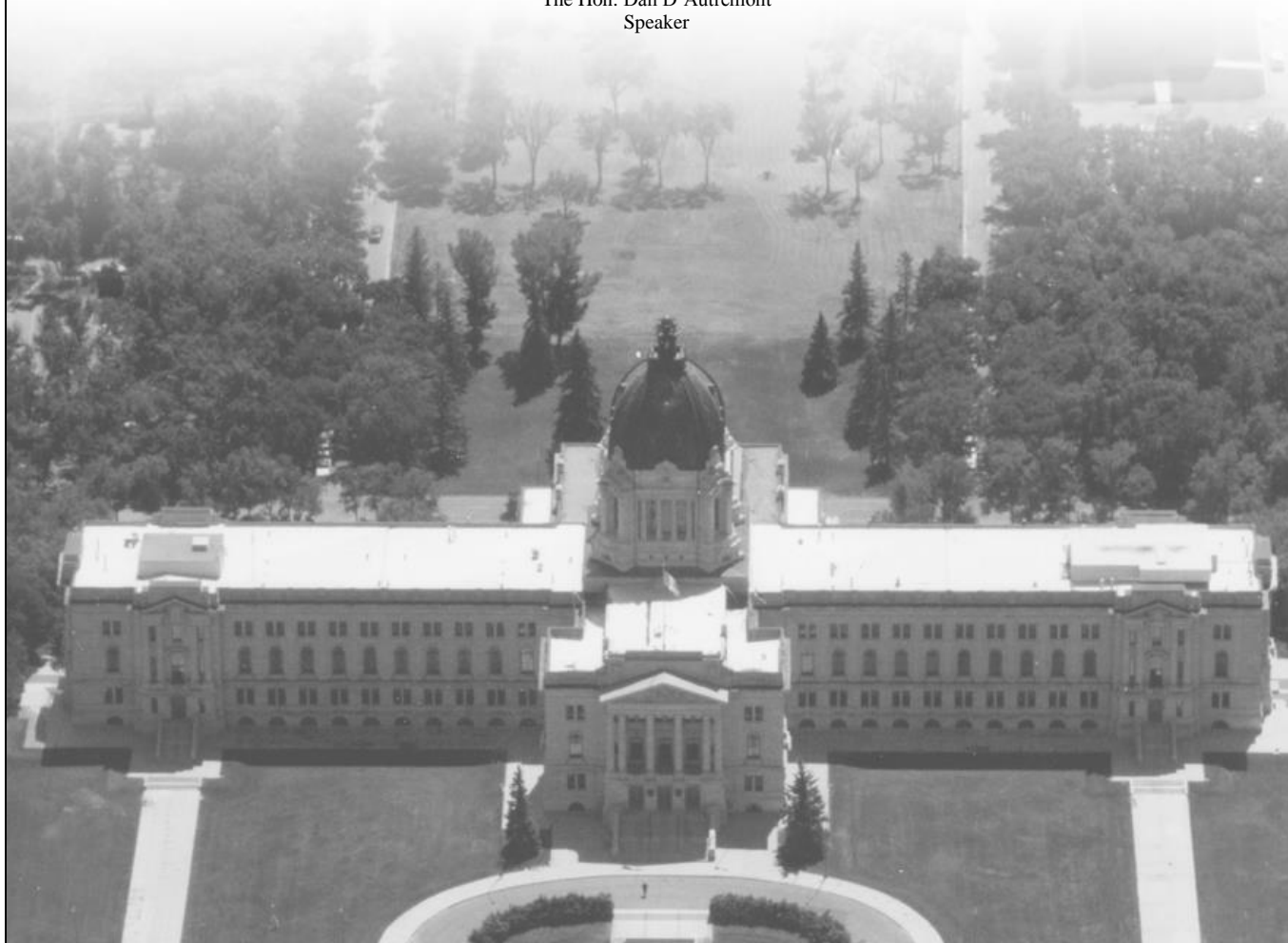
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D'Autremont

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Hon. Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to move Bill No. 160. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 160 — *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move first reading of this bill at this time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved first reading of Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader. When will this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to deal with all stages of this bill immediately.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to deal with all stages of this bill immediately. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 160 — *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* be now read a first time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No.

160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* be committed to Committee of the Whole on Bills and the said bill to be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

The Speaker: — The bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole.

Clerk: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 160 — *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*

The Chair: — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*. Clause 1, short title: is clause 1 agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 6 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — The Government House Leader has moved that the committee report Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a third time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 160 — *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 160, *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election 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.

Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — At the next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. Please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 13:40 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bill.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed a bill which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour, unto which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the title of the bill is as follows:

Bill No. 160 - *The Lloydminster Constituency By-election Act*.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 13:42.]

The Speaker: — Pray be seated. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce a motion to recess.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave for a motion to recess. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we do recess at this time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved a motion to recess at the present time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands recessed to the call of the Chair.

[The Assembly recessed from 13:43 until 13:59.]

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: — Order. The House is now reconvened. I hereby inform the Assembly that, pursuant to an Act of this Legislative Assembly respecting a by-election in the constituency of Lloydminster which was assented to today, November 17, 2014, Ms. Colleen Young is authorized to take her seat as a member for the constituency of Lloydminster.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Ms. Colleen Young, member for the constituency of Lloydminster, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take her seat.

The Speaker: — Ms. Young, I want to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly. And I hope that your time here will be one that serves to be a record of honour to yourself and your constituents. Let the hon. member take her seat. Congratulations and welcome.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you some special guests that we have in the gallery today, in the west gallery. With us are representatives from our Main Street Saskatchewan demonstration communities as well as 11 new communities announced earlier this morning. And when I announce your community, maybe give us a wave on behalf of your communities.

With us today are Swift Current, Melfort, Regina, Spiritwood, Watrous, Moose Jaw, Kerrobert, Nipawin, Humboldt, Langenburg, and Shellbrook.

Mr. Speaker, as you may have heard, Main Street Saskatchewan has had numerous successes since it was first introduced to our province in 2011. The program has seen new businesses opened and new jobs created. It's resulted in improvements to historic streetscapes and buildings and has helped to strengthen Saskatchewan's economy. These successes encourage pride within participating communities, and they continue to support our growing province.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this program would not be possible without the hard-working community members who strive to improve the historic districts within their communities. These individuals receive tools and training from our Main Street officials and use them to enhance the quality of life enjoyed in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to see numerous representatives from our Main Street Saskatchewan program with us here today, as well as Wolseley. Can you give us a wave, Wolseley? Thank you. In recognition of the Main Street Saskatchewan program and the individuals involved in enhancing their historic downtown and commercial districts, I ask that all members please join me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members some special guests who we have sitting in the gallery here as well today. Multiculturalism recognizes our diverse communities and celebrates them. For decades, the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan has been a strong voice for the value of a multicultural society. It was my pleasure to attend both, this past weekend, the multicultural forum and the multicultural

celebration, Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, joining us again this year in recognition of Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Week, is Rhonda Rosenberg, the executive director of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. As many of the members know, Rhonda has been a long-time advocate for multiculturalism. With Rhonda today, from the multicultural Saskatchewan board of directors, is Neeraj Saroj and Barb Dedi, as well as the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan communications coordinator, Justin Waldrop.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of Saskatchewan passing multiculturalism legislation to support and celebrate our unique communities. I enjoyed taking part in the multiculturalism forum and the event at the MacKenzie Art Gallery this past weekend in celebration of this significant anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Week, I ask that all members please join me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to take a moment to join with the minister in welcoming all these individuals to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly Main Street Saskatchewan is a program that these communities have benefited from and will benefit from.

And any of us who grew up in a town or city in Saskatchewan know how important and vital the main street is to a community. And so that we're protecting historic main streets and allowing people to develop a further pride of place is something that's very significant. We want to congratulate these communities on the hard work it takes to be admitted to the program, I know there's a lot of work involved, and the commitment to their main streets. So on behalf of the official opposition, we'd like to welcome all the mainstreeters here to their Legislative Assembly.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the folks from the Multicultural Council. We know how important diversity is to represent our people in Saskatchewan in that diversity. As we know, our provincial motto is "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker. And the hard work of folks like Rhonda, Barb, Saroj, and Justin, we're very happy to have them here in the Legislative Assembly for their celebration. And 45 years is not insignificant, Mr. Speaker. And I think all of us understand the importance of a diverse and vibrant society, and that's what these folks are working hard. So on behalf again of the official opposition, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment here to introduce to you my special guests who are here with me today on this special occasion: my sister Irene and her husband, Jim Burns from Saskatoon; my sister Linda and

her husband, Vern Kawaleski from here in Regina. And earlier with me today were also my good friends, Vic and Pat Kushner from Regina as well. Please join me in welcoming them here to this Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to introduce the inspiration behind Regina's Oxford House Society Inc., Mr. Blair Pope. Blair, can you give us a wave? Thank you.

Last Thursday we celebrated the opening of another Oxford House in Regina, the fourth in the past four years. These houses do fill an important gap that can sometimes exist in the addictions recovery process. By providing supportive alcohol- and drug-free living environment, we can reduce the chance of relapse in individuals who have recently completed an addictions program.

Each individual's success is determined by their own efforts. And Blair does understand that safe, affordable housing is essential to rehabilitative process allowing the necessary time to transition back in the community. I ask everyone here today to join me in thanking Blair for his selfless contribution to keeping Regina and Saskatchewan strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition, I would also like to welcome Blair to the Assembly. The type of work that he has done over many years, but specifically in the last number of years, is really important for the criminal justice system but more importantly for the whole community. Because if people can find a safe place to live, it makes a huge difference in how they can turn their lives around. So, Mr. Speaker, we thank him and all of the people who have worked with him in this particular project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to represent and introduce a couple of citizens from Saskatoon Greystone. I'm delighted to help welcome Manolis and Genevieve Barlas to their Assembly. They're citizens of Saskatoon Greystone. They're leaders of a very community-minded, entrepreneurial family. Many of us have enjoyed the meals at Manos, among other places that they offer proprietorship to.

As well we know how important their role is within Saskatoon and far beyond that. They have been supporters of and participants in the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and especially the Saskatoon Spring Sprint. And so I'm delighted to ask everyone in this Assembly to join me in welcoming the Barlas family to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and to all the members a group of grade 12 students from

Johnson Collegiate. They're here with their teacher, Mr. McKillop. They're learning social studies. And I hope I have a chance to talk to them after routine proceedings today. All members, please help me welcome them.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would to you and through you to all members of the Assembly like to make an introduction here today. I see there's a number of delegations down for the Main Street Saskatchewan introduction today, and I recognize some faces from Melfort and Nipawin. And I think Spiritwood wasn't able to make it here today.

But I'd like to introduce the mayor of my home community, Mr. George Tomporowski. He's the mayor of Shellbrook, has been the mayor there for a number of years, and provided some excellent leadership. And I think he may find himself in the situation where no one is going to run against him for the next number of years. So I would hope that he would continue to be the mayor for a number of years into the future. Again, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of this Assembly to welcome George to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a petition that calls for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts with the Saskatchewan government.

We know that in September this year, the government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project here in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price. When asked to explain how this government could allow such a thing to happen, the Minister of Social Services, and I quote, "You're assuming that there's these desperate homeless people" — showing how disconnected this government is from the realities within our communities. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

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

This petition is signed by concerned residents from across Regina, including right on Dewdney Avenue. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of better health care in Saskatchewan. The petitioners have raised a number of issues that they want to bring to the attention of the Assembly. And the prayer reads as follows:

Requests that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to recognize health care is getting worse under its watch and begin fixing the basics by listening to health care workers, patients, and their families; properly maintaining hospitals and care facilities; and focusing its resources on front-line care instead of spending millions on its lean pet project.

Mr. Speaker, this is submitted by folks from my constituency. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Welcome to the Member for Lloydminster

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I want to welcome the new member representing the constituency of Lloydminster. For most of us, our first day in the Assembly was a day shared with several other brand new members at the start of a brand new Legislative Assembly. Most of us didn't join midway through a session immediately after a whirlwind by-election campaign.

[14:15]

So I want to extend a particularly hearty welcome to the new member. Having served for over 20 years on the Lloydminster Public School Board, most of that time as board Chair, as well as serving in the senate of the University of Saskatchewan, I'm sure that the member's lengthy record of public service will bode well for her in adjusting to her new role. And I'm especially hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that her experience as a mother of eight children will help keep some of those rowdy government members in line, although I think that might be

wishful thinking.

Mr. Speaker, again on behalf of the official opposition, I say a very sincere welcome to the new member.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Battlefords Cowboy Harvest Parade

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some time ago I rose to recognize the Battlefords Quarter Horse Club for organizing a very successful Terry Fox Ride. Today I rise to highlight yet another worthwhile fundraising event organized by this community-minded group.

That event was the Cowboy Harvest Parade which was held in October in the town of Battleford. The club has hosted this parade for the last seven years and now co-hosts the event with the Battlefords food bank. Funds raised by participants in this parade and from the auction afterwards are used to fill hampers and make Christmas just a little more special for some needy families in The Battlefords.

Mr. Speaker, at this year's parade we had approximately 50 riders and we raised \$6,500, which brings the total to approximately \$40,000 since the parade began. Main Street in Battleford was lined with spectators who enjoyed the parade, which was made up of only horses, riders, and wagons, as no motorized vehicles are allowed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Battlefords Quarter Horse Club for giving me the honour of being this year's parade marshal and lead the parade. Very special thanks goes out to Shirley Smith and her committee for all of their hard work in organizing this event. We should also thank the many sponsors who donated merchandise for the auction, and the food bank staff for providing an excellent chili meal after the parade.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking and congratulating the Battlefords Quarter Horse Club on another very successful Cowboy Harvest Parade. Thank you.

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

Pleasant Hill School Centenary

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This September I was honoured to join Pleasant Hill Community School in celebrating its 100th anniversary. In September 1914 the first students arrived at Pleasant Hill School. The original school was a two-room schoolhouse and the current school building was opened for students in 1929.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honour to take part in the centennial year celebration and welcome back powwow on September 10th. As always, the powwow was a beautiful, powerful event. As well as the powwow, the school, in coordination with the school division's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis education unit, hosted school tours and a special program. The students also got to take part in a fun-packed day of activities.

Pleasant Hill School offers great programming such as Cree language classes, Métis jigging, and powwow dance troops, but renovations are long overdue. Mr. Speaker, the school needs \$11 million in renovations to stay functional. Rachel Homeniuk, the Pleasant Hill administrative assistant of 15 years, is one of many with concerns for the school's future. She says, and I quote, "They're building new schools in new areas but I hope they don't forget the old ones. We have a lot to offer at our school."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in congratulating Pleasant Hill School on 100 years, and that we ensure the people of our older neighbourhoods are also not forgotten as the city continues to grow. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Volunteer Honoured by B'nai Brith

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps due to Saskatchewan's frontier legacy that we have grown to be a province and a people minded toward community involvement. In our lives, each of us has been impacted by the efforts of our province's faithful volunteers who devote their resources and time to help those in need.

While every one of these admirable individuals deserves recognition, today I stand to recognize one in particular. Last Wednesday I, alongside the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Greystone, had the pleasure of attending the 59th Annual Silver Plate Dinner in Saskatoon hosted by the B'nai Brith, an international Jewish charitable organization.

Each year B'nai Brith honours a member of the local community with their prestigious We Are Proud of You Award, for exemplary yet unrecognized volunteer service. It's my pleasure to announce that this year's recipient was Saskatoon's Paul Jaspas.

Paul's history of involvement is as long as it is diverse, ranging from the Jeux de Canada Games to the Juno Awards to service to the University of Saskatchewan and many others. His reaction upon being recognized speaks to his commitment, saying only that he has taken away from volunteering much more than he has given.

While it is perhaps not possible to acknowledge the work of every volunteer in this province, I am pleased for the opportunity to rise today and extend thanks to at least one, especially to an individual who has offered so much to the people of Saskatchewan and one who I am proud to call a friend.

On behalf of all our constituents, I ask members to join me in extending a well-deserved congratulations to Mr. Jaspas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Multicultural Week

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Today I rise in the House to announce the proclamation of Multicultural Week in Saskatchewan from November 15th to 23rd. This week is made possible by the continued partnership between the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

This year in particular is special because it celebrates the 40th anniversary of *The Saskatchewan Multicultural Act*. Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to enact legislation in support of our cultural communities, something that we should all be very proud of. This Act promotes the value of cultural diversity to the province, including various First Nations cultures, Métis, generations of settlers, refugees, as well as new immigrants to the province. Mr. Speaker, it's events such as this that truly speak to our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength."

Multicultural Week kicked off this past Saturday with a public forum at the First Nations University of Canada. Acknowledging multiculturalism reflects on compassion, capacity, and desire to welcome newcomers to our province and then create an inclusive society. Weeks such as this also help us understand how we as a province gain from being inclusive and gaining different perspectives from people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in acknowledging and celebrating Multicultural Week here in Saskatchewan, as well as the mosaic that we have become. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Northern Saskatchewan Football League Ends Second Season

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Northern Saskatchewan Football League. The league's teams are high-school-based and include both boys and girls who play football while completing their high school education. The inaugural season was played last year and the second season concluded this November 1st with a championship game played in Prince Albert. Sponsorship from Cameco and the Northern Lights School Division made it possible for the players to take to the field in new equipment and jerseys.

Mr. Speaker, this year the league consisted of nine teams in two divisions playing six-man football. The east division consisted of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band Huskies, Sandy Bay T-Wolves, Cumberland House Islanders, and the Creighton Kodiaks. The west division consisted of the La Loche Lakers, Buffalo Narrows Eagles, Beauval Voyageurs, Pinehouse Lakers, and the Green Lake Spirits.

Three of these teams, Creighton, Lac La Ronge, and Green Lake joined the league for the first time this season. Creighton made it to the final in their first season and Pinehouse had the opportunity to defend their championship from last season. Both teams carried a 4 and 0 regular season record into the playoffs. In the end, Creighton won the Ralph Pilz

Championship Trophy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Creighton Kodiaks on their championship season and to thank all the players, coaches, parents, referees, administrators who made the Northern Saskatchewan Football League season another great success. Thank you.

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

Lloydminster Sends Message

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday Lloydminster voters elected a new MLA. The new Sask Party member for Lloydminster received 64 per cent of the vote, more than double the number of votes for the NDP [New Democratic Party] candidate.

It's often said that by-elections are an opportunity to send the government a message. I believe the voters of Lloydminster did just that. There is more work to do and our government is on the right track, but they want an MLA who will give Lloydminster a strong voice in this government. Lloydminster voters said, we want an MLA who is part of the solution on this side of the House, not a part of the problem that exists on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, after the results were in, the NDP leader blamed the poor result on the Premier calling a snap by-election. That's quite something because the NDP House Leader had called the Premier to hold, as quick as possible, a by-election, and the NDP leader said he was pleasantly surprised at the early call. Mr. Speaker, first the NDP called for an early by-election, and then they used it as an excuse.

Mr. Speaker, the voters of Lloydminster also sent the NDP a message. They expect more than just complaints and excuses. They expect more than just the same old Lingenfelter tactics that failed so miserably in the last election. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, did the Opposition Leader get the message? We're about to find out.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Shelter for Homeless People

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Jerry Peequaquat was just 42 years old. He was homeless since being cut off social assistance, so he was using a broken-down semi-trailer on the 500 block of Avenue K South in Saskatoon as his shelter. On Friday night with the temperature at minus 28 degrees with the wind chill, Jerry died in that makeshift shelter. Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely heartbreaking.

My question is for the Deputy Premier: will he call an inquest into the circumstances that led to this tragic death, including the government's decision to cut Jerry Peequaquat off social assistance despite the fact that he was desperate and homeless?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a heart-wrenching situation that happened to this gentleman. And I can't discuss the specific facts of his case of whether or not he was on assistance, but I can caution the NDP to check facts first before they try to mislead anyone into thinking something that isn't necessarily true.

Mr. Speaker, we do have the cold-weather strategy. There should be no one homeless in Saskatchewan in our cold months. There's a number of emergency numbers in which we encourage anyone who knows of someone who is homeless to please contact those numbers, and there will be shelter found for those people. We have a number of great community-based organizations that work very hard on our cold-weather strategy to provide shelter.

The Speaker: — As I cautioned the member, one of the members last week about using the term misleading, I would caution the minister as well. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the facts are very important. And that's why I believe it is necessary and appropriate to have a formal coroner's inquest that would investigate the circumstances leading to Jerry Peequaquat's death. That in itself is important to get to the bottom of all those facts, but it would also be important because it would allow recommendations to be made in order to prevent similar deaths in the future. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, I think it's necessary, and I absolutely urge the government to call for that inquest.

I know from conversations that I had with people over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, that many are concerned about how many people like Jerry are in the same or a similar situation and how many have been cut off from social assistance, Mr. Speaker, despite being in a very desperate and homeless state. So my specific question is to the Deputy Premier: does the government have any information, Mr. Speaker, on how many others are in this situation right now?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, again I want to stress that no one should be homeless through our cold winter months. The emergency shelters that we have, we have increased funding to ensure their viability, as well as we have doubled the number of spaces available for emergency shelters in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we have an emergency number that anyone can call, as well as mobile crisis has services 24 hours a day. We encourage the public, should they know of someone who is living in a homeless situation through the winter months, to please call those numbers and make our community-based organizations aware of this individual and help will be sent to them.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we have a sense of how many people are in this situation because we know that it is Jerry's nephew who made the comment, as reported in the media, that he was homeless after being cut off of social assistance. And so for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I think an inquest would be appropriate, and it would be helpful to

understand Jerry's situation but also to understand the situation of so many others.

And we've been pushing on this government to adopt a housing-first strategy which recognizes that homeless people are more responsive to intervention and support after they are in a home. So a housing-first approach provides chronically homeless people with access to permanent housing, intensive case management, and the wraparound supports. And that's exactly the kind of supports, Mr. Speaker, that Jerry Peequaquat needed but instead, according to his nephew, Mr. Speaker, he was cut off of social assistance.

So my question is to the Deputy Premier: when will this government finally implement a province-wide housing-first strategy to help some of the most vulnerable citizens in our province?

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

[14:30]

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have stated in this House before, we have invested more money in housing than the previous government did by many, many times more than the previous government. We have invested 475 million to develop over 8,300 units.

We do recognize more needs to be done, and we will be looking at this through the poverty strategy. We do have a housing strategy, Mr. Speaker. We will be coming forward with a disability strategy very soon. We are working on an addictions and mental illness strategy, Mr. Speaker. We have violence against women strategy. And we are working then with the stakeholders and the people who are actually on the ground on the poverty strategy. And there may be a suggestion of a wraparound service for individuals.

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

Provision of Social and Affordable Housing

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The latest numbers from this government show over 920 people waiting for social and affordable housing, including over 200 seniors. And these numbers are just for the larger housing authorities, and that's not counting all the smaller housing authorities in Saskatchewan. My question is to the minister: how many people in total are currently on wait-lists for social and affordable housing in our province?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that detailed number at my fingertips here in the House. I'll provide the number.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that at least 532 people are waiting for social housing in our province. Two hundred and one seniors are waiting for social housing. One hundred and eight people are waiting for affordable housing.

But that's just the number of people who are actually on waiting lists. That doesn't include many others, including those that are desperately homeless in our province.

My question is to the minister: does this government have a rough estimate of how many people are in desperate need of social and affordable housing in our province?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there's been a number of initiatives that this government's undertaken in housing to increase the amount of housing that's available to families and to individuals. That work has come out of the great work that was done to have a housing strategy, Mr. Speaker, and that strategy is working. The vacancy rates around our province are now coming to a more healthy level, unlike when the NDP were in power and vacancy rates fell to less than 1 per cent and they did absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for families in 2011, on average province-wide there were 63 people waiting to get new social housing. These people waited five months before they got a home. Now in 2014 we've decreased the amount of people on this list by 47 per cent and decreased the amount of time that they wait by 56 per cent. Mr. Speaker, for seniors in 2011 to now, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we have seen the waiting list decrease by 74 per cent and their wait time by 65 per cent. There's more work that needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, but we are moving in the right direction.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sandra Brown runs the Métis Housing Group in Lloydminster and she says and I quote:

Up until the Saskatchewan Party was elected, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation was a leader, and innovative across this country. The Saskatchewan Party has diminished the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to the point where they are almost ineffective.

To the minister: how can this government justify diminishing Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to a point where those who are on the front lines say it's almost ineffective?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I find it very interesting that that member stands up and asks housing questions when he sat in cabinet when the NDP were in government and did absolutely nothing for housing when vacancy rates were less than 1 per cent in some of our major centres around the province. How does he explain that? How does the member from Athabasca explain it? Because he was at the cabinet table as well when they were sitting in the land of Nod according to the article at that time.

Mr. Speaker, in Lloydminster since 2007 the province invested and committed to the development of 31 affordable housing units, Mr. Speaker. Do you know how many the NDP built in your Lloydminster in seven years, their final seven years? Ten.

We've increased it by 300 per cent.

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

Building Costs for New Schools

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government's P3 [public-private partnership], rent-a-school scheme just keeps sounding worse and worse. Late last week the Education minister revealed that the government is off-loading costs, significant costs, to develop new schools to municipalities. Yet again this government is neglecting its responsibilities and forcing municipalities and local property tax payers, families, to pay extra.

To the Education minister: how is it fair to local communities and families to put them in a position where they either have to pay extra or they don't get the school that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, we are at a time in our province where we are seeing unprecedented growth. We've seen now large increases in enrolment. And, Mr. Speaker, since we have formed government, we have built 40 new schools including nine joint-use schools for our fastest growing communities. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we have 25 major renovations and additions either under way or completed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the municipalities and their elected officials. We value and respect the relationship we have with our municipal partners. And we look forward to continuing to working with them to providing great schools with great teachers for our great students in our province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to go on and just point out some of these things that these schools have that will be of benefit to municipal taxpayers. These things will have — and these are all of the joint-use schools — meeting rooms, multi-purpose rooms, after-hours space, playgrounds, child care, etc.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this is yet another example of that government failing to hold up its end of the bargain. Municipalities are already strained, and Saskatchewan families are already squeezed by the rising cost of living and the increased property taxes.

Municipalities should not be responsible for building schools. The provincial government should be, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: why can't this government get the job done on building the schools we need? Why does it need to force extra costs onto municipalities and families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the 40 new schools is certainly an indication that the province is building new schools. This is as opposed to the record of the members opposite that closed 176 schools. You don't have an issue with municipalities when you close 176 schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point something out. The issue that the member opposite is talking about is the providing of municipal reserve land. Mr. Speaker, municipal reserve is land provided by the developer, not the municipality, at no cost. The province has, in addition to that, provided funding in recognition of the use of municipal reserve. The funding was provided to each municipality based on the city of Regina's suggested cost.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP left us a \$1.2 billion school infrastructure deficit. In order to meet the needs of our growing communities and ensure the cost-effective method for our taxpayers, these schools are being planned on municipal reserve land provided by the developers at no cost to the municipality.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, families in communities that have crowded, rundown classrooms and not enough classrooms shouldn't have to pay more than everybody else to get enough class space for their kids. A community that needs a school should get a school, period, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the Education minister shouldn't be giving these communities an ultimatum either to pay extra or don't get the school.

To the minister: will he live up to his responsibility as Education minister, reverse this decision, and stop forcing municipalities and Saskatchewan families to pay extra for the schools they deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the arrangement that we made with the municipalities, that we would pay \$1 million for the cost of servicing — which I understand it's not an issue to them — if we wanted to reverse the decision and not give them the additional \$1.015 million per lot, if that's what the members opposite want us to do, is not give them any money and strictly go by what the Act says, I suppose the members could put that forward as part of their election platform. We're not going to. We've agreed to provide each of the municipalities with in excess of \$1 million per lot.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read from *The Planning and Development Act*. It states that a public reserve or a municipal reserve is only to be used for such things, and I quote, public parks, public buildings, and school purposes. That's what municipal reserve is for. That's what this land is for. That's what we've done.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between this side of the House and that side of the House is that they planned for a decline in enrolment. We plan for a rise in enrolment, and we're going to continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Costs and Benefits of Health Facility Tours

Ms. Chartier: — Last week the Health minister wrongly claimed that the John Black North American tours cost just

\$200,000 per year. But that is not even close to the truth. According to John Black's closely guarded price schedule which we've managed to obtain, this government is spending \$173,500 for every single North American tour. And that's just for John Black to act as the tour guide. It doesn't include travel and accommodation expenses or staff replacement costs.

To the minister: will he now admit that he was wrong last week and that this government is spending nearly \$200,000 every time John Black takes health care workers on a US [United States] field trip?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, North American tours are a part of the services that we have contracted with John Black and Associates. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the members of the House and the public that the final year of the contract, we've reduced the price by \$2.6 million. We've made some other changes, to the point now where this nearly four-year contract will cost the taxpayers of this province \$35.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, but to date, the savings have far and away exceeded that dollar amount when you look at all the lean savings that we've seen in the system — nearly \$57 million since the ministry has embarked upon lean. Mr. Speaker, these are savings that we can redirect back into front-line care. That sees a province, Mr. Speaker, that is actually increasing bed numbers, that is actually building new facilities and increasing front-line staff at a time where that isn't the case in every single province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The Premier's director of communications told reporters last week that the tours "cost far less than the \$200,000 per tour." But that's not what John Black's own price schedule shows. An email we've obtained from the head of the provincial kaizen promotion office shows that John Black rakes in over \$173,500 for every single field trip. Again to the minister: why won't he just admit that this government is paying John Black nearly \$200,000 every time he takes Saskatchewan health care workers on US field trips?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have an opportunity over the last number of years to see front-line staff in this province learn from high-performing health systems across North America and other industries that do use lean. Certainly there is a cost to get entry into those different organizations, Mr. Speaker. That is a part of the lean certification that we are doing which is going to see this province save dollars in the long run, Mr. Speaker, and has other provinces looking at what Saskatchewan is doing, Mr. Speaker, for them to see what lean is meaning to Saskatchewan, what it's meaning to improving health care in this province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — This is what the minister argued repeatedly

last week as to why taxpayers need to pay John Black nearly \$200,000 for every US field trip because "He does open the doors to those facilities that we wouldn't otherwise have access to." But here's what the CEO [chief executive officer] and the executive director of the provincial kaizen promotion office have to say: "Quick view of Autoliv, VMMC, and Seattle Children's websites indicate opportunity to independently organize trips. Not sure why JBA is required."

To the minister: why are taxpayers paying nearly \$200,000 to John Black for every single field trip when even the provincial kaizen promotion office recognizes that John Black is not required?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we look to take on the, Mr. Speaker, as we look to take on, Mr. Speaker, the transition for lean when we are outside of the JBA [John Black and Associates] contract, Mr. Speaker, there are opportunities for us through organizations like Virginia Mason that there is a cost for us to, in order for us to take part in their lean journey.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell the members opposite that the top 10 hospitals in United States, as rated by US news magazine, all 10 of them do use lean, and in fact 7 out of the 10 have their own lean training program or academy, including the Mayo quality academy, Mr. Speaker, which we'll now have access through that program. And there are other organizations that we now have access to through our relationship with JBA.

[14:45]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I am not convinced that this province or this government should be sending nearly 900 health care workers on US field trips with John Black. But if the government is going to do it, Mr. Speaker, if they're intent and determined to go down that path, they don't need to be paying John Black nearly \$200,000 for each and every field trip.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the Leader of the Opposition and health care workers who say it doesn't make sense. The Health Quality Council, Mr. Speaker, says that it's not even required. Here's what the top brass at the provincial kaizen promotion office says: they say that it's possible to independently organize these events. Back, Mr. Speaker, on June 27th, they said, "Not sure why JBA is required."

Well and then we just heard the minister here again in question period say that it's necessary to pay to gain access, Mr. Speaker. That is contrary to what websites say. It is contrary to what the lean kaizen promotion office says for the province, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the minister: when he said to reporters last week that it was necessary to pay, did he know, did he know that it's actually not necessary to pay John Black to get access, or is this all news to him right now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, one of the organizations that we're working with is Virginia Mason. This is an organization that has done some work around, some good work around quality improvement and a stop-the-line safety alert system which, Mr. Speaker, even the Minister of Health in the UK [United Kingdom] visited earlier this year and announced that they were going to do a stop-the-line safety alert project, which we've now done in Saskatoon, we've launched in Saskatoon.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll answer the question to the Leader of the Opposition. This is Virginia Mason's website. It's advanced lean training. It goes through what the training program calls for, and there is a cost associated per person that we send down. This is one organization that we're using, but there is a cost per person. Mr. Speaker, this is a part of the lean certification training that we do want to provide so that we can exit the contract in June and be able to stand this up on its own without JBA.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, last week in the Assembly, last week in the rotunda, and again today, Mr. Speaker, we have the Minister of Health saying that it is necessary to pay John Black nearly \$200,000 for every ridiculous field trip of the John Black tour through North America. We have, Mr. Speaker, an email from the lean kaizen provincial promotion office from June 27th to the Ministry of Health. The minister is well aware of this, Mr. Speaker. The email says, "Not sure why JBA is required." It's right here in the document, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the minister: last week and today, when he's saying that John Black is required, that is clearly not the case, coming from information directed to his very own ministry. Does this minister believe that it's necessary to pay John Black nearly \$200,000 for every ridiculous field trip down to the States?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm just going off the Virginia Mason Institute's advanced lean training website, Mr. Speaker, where it identifies . . . And this is one of the portions of the trip that we would have sent people on. It talks about the study of lean implementation, detailed training, and the tools that were used by Virginia Mason: hands-on, in-class exercises, Mr. Speaker. And there is a cost associated which we pay through JBA to enrol people into this course, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — How much is it? Is it 200,000?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No. In fact it's \$6,500 per person, so it would depend on the number of people that we send down. But, Mr. Speaker, this is the work that we've contracted through JBA. They've identified these opportunities, and those are the ones that we're sending front-line staff on.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, from the very own document that was received through Health Quality Council lean kaizen promotion office, here's a line: "Quick view of Autoliv,

VMMC, and Seattle Children's websites indicate opportunity to independently organize trips. Not sure why JBA is required."

Mr. Speaker, Health Quality Council, the kaizen promotion office says it's not necessary to waste the money and to pad John Black's pockets. But for some bizarre reason, this government is intent on just shovelling more and more millions into the bank account of John Black, all at the same time as they ignore the concerns here in the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, they knew in late June that they didn't need to pay this money to John Black, yet this minister, this government plows ahead in mid-July, re-signs the contract with John Black. Now if they were intent on plowing ahead and signing the contract, Mr. Speaker, I have problems with that, but they could of at least listened to ministry officials, listened to the kaizen promotion office, and cut out the John Black world tour, North American kaizen field trips at 200,000 bucks a pop.

Why didn't the minister, why didn't this government use some common sense, actually save some money, and actually put it where it counts on the front lines?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about putting the patient first in this province, one doesn't need to look at the NDP record. The record of the NDP in the last five years as a government: 173 fewer physicians, 455 fewer nurses, 155 fewer pharmacists, 95 fewer physiotherapists. Mr. Speaker, 1999, when wait-lists were the longest that they were in this country in Saskatchewan, they made a promise to cut surgical wait times by 30 per cent. In the four years after the 1999 election, Mr. Speaker, wait times didn't drop by 30 per cent. They went up 61 per cent. That's . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I've had a chance to go through the record of the NDP. Here's what we've been able to do with a lower increase in dollar amounts: 423 more doctors in Saskatchewan, a 24 per cent increase; 2,600 more nurses of all designations; and a 99 per cent decrease in the number of people waiting for surgeries longer than 18 months — something the members opposite should apologize and be ashamed of their record in this province.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

New Communities in Main Street Saskatchewan Program

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to share with you an exciting announcement I made earlier today. Following the success of our four demonstration communities, Main Street Saskatchewan has accepted 11 new communities into the program. The cities of Melfort and Swift Current have been accepted into the program at the accredited

level and will receive all supports and services offered by the program.

Nine communities have been accepted at the affiliate level and will receive some of the supports and services offered by the Main Street program. These communities include the town of Spiritwood, city of Regina, town of Watrous, town of Kerrobert, town of Nipawin, city of Humboldt, city of Moose Jaw, town of Shellbrook, town of Langenburg.

These communities join Prince Albert, Maple Creek, Indian Head, and Wolseley, who entered the program in 2011 and have already seen successes such as the exterior restoration of Maple Creek's Commercial Hotel, facade improvements to Indian Head's Night Hawk Theatre, the installation of new windows in Wolseley's Perley Block, and exterior upgrades to Prince Albert's RNF Ventures building.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have representatives from these new communities with us here today, and I ask that the House join me in welcoming them to the Main Street Saskatchewan program.

Mr. Speaker, historic downtowns and commercial districts are important to our growing province. They support economic development, encourage both tourism and cultural initiatives, and provide citizens with places they can be proud of. Mr. Speaker, over the past three years our government has supported the Main Street Saskatchewan program with investments of more than \$1.65 million. Such investments helped to create 22 new businesses and 66 new jobs. They've seen \$4.9 million committed to historic building and streetscape improvements, and \$6.5 million in property acquisitions.

Mr. Speaker, with the addition of these 11 new communities, I look forward to seeing more of our historic downtown and commercial districts developed through the Main Street Saskatchewan program. This program will help keep Saskatchewan strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thanks to the hon. minister for providing his comments to me in advance of his announcement today. Certainly this is something I think all of these communities can be very proud of. I've had the good fortune of visiting I think all of them but one, and I know that these communities are vibrant and working hard to maintain their community spirit. And certainly a program like this is something that will help them continue to do the good work that they do.

Having grown up in a smaller community, Mr. Speaker, I know how important the main street is to the life of a community. And certainly the local folks who put in countless hours of volunteering, dedicating themselves to the lifeblood of their community and to that community spirit, deserve the utmost recognition.

And certainly these 11 new communities that have been accepted into the program are good examples of what can be done when people work together. And that truly is the

Saskatchewan spirit I think that we all are familiar with and proud of when we think about our own home communities and the people that we represent.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just really want to congratulate all these folks for doing the hard work that they needed to do to get accepted into this program. I know they are inspiring to many other communities in Saskatchewan. And certainly we'll see the results of the investment in this program through the hard work that these individuals will be doing from here on in.

So on behalf of the official opposition, we'd like again to congratulate the 11 communities that have been entered into the program, and certainly the four communities that have already demonstrated success, great success, with this kind of support. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to seeing more commitment from these individual communities. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Regulatory Approval for Medical Isotopes

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly that Canadian Light Source has received regulatory approval for production and shipment of molybdenum-99 isotopes. These medical isotopes will be used to perform critical life-saving tests on people throughout Canada.

This facility, located in Saskatoon, is the first of its kind in the world, and produces medical isotopes by using powerful X-rays as opposed to the traditional way. This announcement puts Saskatchewan and the Canadian Light Source in the forefront in the area of innovation.

We're pleased to see that our government's \$2 million commitment in funding for this project will have lasting benefits for medicine and open up even more opportunities for isotope technology commercialization worldwide. The medical isotopes project shows Saskatchewan's commitment to being a world leader in the application of technologies by developing a safe and effective means of producing molybdenum-99 without the need for uranium. This breakthrough reduces our dependence on reactors such as the one in Chalk River. This truly is a remarkable achievement and soon scientists from around the world will be coming to Saskatchewan to see how it works. Once again Saskatchewan is claiming its spot as a world leader in innovation, research, and development.

Medical isotopes play a key role in modern-day medicine. Each week about 20,000 patients in Canada rely on them to help diagnose serious medical issues. This innovation will have far-reaching effects, and many people from across Canada and around the world will benefit from them. This project was made possible by funding from Natural Resources Canada's isotope technology acceleration program and the Government of Saskatchewan, with its partner, Prairie Isotope Production Enterprise. By 2016 this facility will be the leading supplier to health care institutions across Western Canada and northern Ontario. I ask all members to congratulate the Canadian Light Source on this remarkable achievement as they bring much needed isotopes to people across Canada.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister for the ministerial statement in advance. This really is a remarkable achievement and this is really good news. And certainly we want to thank all partners, all involved, and certainly the Canadian Light Source synchrotron on this really remarkable achievement that highlights the ingenuity, the research and development capacity of many, and is a really special innovation project both for our province, for the synchrotron itself, but for people across Canada in being able to receive the medical improvements that can be brought here. So this is a really good project. We're pleased to celebrate this success, and we thank all partners for their involvement. It's noteworthy that not long ago investments were made in the synchrotron. I know it was referenced many times as Canada's or in fact the world's greatest science experiment at the time, and certainly these sorts of dividends are impressive and valuable to all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 159 — *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has moved first reading of Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

[15:00]

Bill No. 608 — *The Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement Act*

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 608, *The Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved first reading of Bill No. 608, *The Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 158 — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to move second reading of a bill to amend *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*.

The SPP [Saskatchewan Pension Plan] provides a unique retirement savings vehicle for individuals with little or no access to occupational pension plans or other retirement savings arrangements. It is the only plan of its kind in Canada offering members professional investment management at institutional costs.

Since 1986 the Saskatchewan Pension Plan has grown to over 33,000 members and has \$401 million under trusteeship. The plan is an integral part of the retirement savings plans of the people of Saskatchewan. The plan also offers members important benefits such as affordability. You can be a member of the plan regardless of your earnings. This is attractive for people with irregular or seasonal earnings such as students, part-time workers, or people who are self-employed.

Simple: the Saskatchewan Pension Plan takes pride in being easy to join and understand. Paperwork is kept to a minimum. As well administrators of the plan are always available and happy to answer any questions members may have. They are willing to assist with any aspect of the plan. Consistent: the plan's philosophy is to invest cautiously over the long term. This is an attractive approach for many people but especially for those with little or no investment experience. The plan is also voluntary. You are never obligated to contribute. Flexible: you can make a contribution at any time during the plan year. Portable: it is always your plan regardless of where you live or what you do. Professionally managed: investments are handled by a professional investment firm.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments included in this Act will update the language to reflect current circumstances and bring it into line with best practices contained in other government pension plans. The Act has been in place since 1986, and this is the first comprehensive update since that time.

The amendments will repeal Bill 82, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*. This Act was given Royal Assent

on May 15, 2013 but was not proclaimed. For clarity, the provisions of that bill are incorporated into these amendments. The provisions from Bill 82 predominantly dealt with the legislative changes that would be required for SPP to accept transfers in from Saskatchewan-based locked-in pension plans and locked-in retirement accounts, LIRAs, by bringing SPP in line with provincial pension benefits legislation.

In particular, the amendments include an update to survivor benefits so that married members must name their spouse as beneficiary of their account unless the spouse waives that right. Also retiring members who are married and who choose an SPP annuity at retirement will have to choose a joint and last survivor 60 per cent annuity unless the spouse waives that right. The proposed amendments are in line with provisions in *The Public Employees Pension Plan Act*.

The Act also clarifies the language around the board's authority to offer prescribed pension benefits to members. This language simply clarifies the duties of the board. Any new pension benefit would still need to be set in regulation.

Currently retiring members may purchase an annuity from SPP or transfer to a guaranteed life annuity, a locked-in retirement account, or a prescribed registered retirement income fund at another financial institution. If other options become available in the marketplace, the board could recommend regulations be amended to include the new product.

The amendments introduce the term "specialty fund," which is similar wording to that included in other government pension plans and will allow the board to introduce unitization, which is a standard in the mutual fund industry.

Another amendment will allow funds payable to a member of the SPP to be transferred to the General Revenue Fund in the event that the member cannot be located. This would only be done after all other avenues have been exhausted, and the funds would continue to be held in the member's name. This protocol is similar to the process used by other financial institutions when clients cannot be located.

Amendments will allow members to object to a marital division of their account on certain grounds. The Act has been silent on this issue. The amendments modernize the language in the Act as well as clarifying the board's duties and responsibilities. These are not expanded beyond current practices.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 158, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased on behalf of the opposition to stand today and give initial comments on Bill No. 158, which is *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, what's really important I think at the outset is that there is certainly a lot of folks that pay close attention to . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a minute to introduce guests in the gallery behind me, which is the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . west gallery — thank you — and in particular Mr. Trevor Peterson from Assiniboia and his mom.

Trevor is an amazing individual in the Assiniboia community, which is close to my home community of Lafleche, and he's a teacher there. He's very involved in his community and he's also stepping up to the plate politically. He will be representing the NDP in the federal election coming up for Cypress Hills Grasslands. And we know that Trevor is fully committed to the issues that are important to him like rural issues, health care, and certainly the plight of people living in poverty, and the environment.

So there's a number of things that he's very eloquent on and passionate about, and we know he's going to represent well in the upcoming election. But we just want to take a moment to welcome Trevor and his mom to his Legislative Assembly today. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 158 — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014* (continued)

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again as I said at the outset, there's a lot of people in Saskatchewan that pay very close attention to the pension plans and the pension plans throughout the province, Mr. Speaker. So it's important that we take a long, hard look at this particular pension plan and some of the amendments made as a result of this bill, Bill 158.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what a lot of people in Saskatchewan have been certainly asking for, and I think at times they, like myself, need to have more explanation and more information I guess as it relates to pension plans.

And a lot of people in northern Saskatchewan . . . I realized throughout time that a lot of our elders, and I'll give you a good example in my home community, that a lot of elders live on a very small fixed income. I think a lot of them have the basic old age security pension plan. I think it's about \$550. And

depending on their circumstances and their income from the CPP, the Canada Pension Plan, they sometimes have such a low amount that they have to apply for a supplementary pension plan that is attached to the old age security plan. And what happens, Mr. Speaker, is many of the elders in my home community sometimes are forced to live on 11 or \$1,300 a month, which is really a very tough and trying time for them.

So what I try and do, you know, as an MLA, is to talk to a lot of the senior citizens when I am visiting with them to see what issues that they had in their previous years that didn't allow them to get set up for a pension plan. Because obviously when they worked when they were younger, they got some of their benefits back through the CPP. But by and large, many people throughout the province — and I find a lot of evidence of that in my home community — that when it comes to pension plans, a lot of northern and Aboriginal seniors really didn't have a lot of information on pension plans when they were younger. The net effect is, Mr. Speaker, is now that they've reached the age of 65 and over, that they're finding that the meagre amount that they get from old age really has a dramatic, drastic effect on their ability to look after themselves and of course to run a household.

So a lot of times these elders that I'm involved with, when I talk to them about pension plans, they often tell me, make sure you explain to young people how the pension plan works or how an RRSP [registered retirement savings plan] works or how savings work, Mr. Speaker. Because in the early years, these elders, they certainly worked hard. They lived off the land. They raised their kids. They gave them great love and great discipline, and the list goes on as to the qualities that they afforded their children.

But what the elders, a lot of elders didn't do, Mr. Speaker, is they didn't financially plan for their old age. And at that time it was tough enough to put food on the table, to make sure the kids were warm and dressed properly. And, Mr. Speaker, many of the elders in my particular area, they're in a transition mode from the economy of the '50s and the '40s to the economy of the '80s and '90s, and it was not their fault that they didn't understand the pension plan system or not their fault that they didn't properly financially plan for their older years. And the net effect, Mr. Speaker, is that they are now finding the pinch, unable to be able to afford their home and some of the other bills that they have.

So I want to say when it comes to the pension plan issues and some of the points raised by the minister and some of the amendments that the Saskatchewan Party government want to do, we obviously want to pay very close attention to this as an opposition. Because as my elders taught me from back home, yes we may have made the mistakes in not properly financing our future, but we want to make sure that the young people do not make the same mistakes. So we often tell the young people in our constituency, pay very close attention to your pension plan. Pay close attention to your RRSPs. Pay close attention to how you're going to build up a savings fund for the time when you turn 60 or 65, because retirement is something that we ought to plan for.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, we find that there's a lot of younger people as a result working for companies like Areva, like

Cameco, like the provincial government, like the federal government and some private firms, that they're able to be in the process of setting up a pension plan. And this is something I think that more and more young people are paying attention to. Because as I've indicated before, the elders that are living on a meagre 12 or \$1,300 a month today understood that they didn't put the money away when they were younger because they couldn't afford it, but they don't want to see the young people make the same mistakes.

So pension plans overall are something that we have to pay very close attention to, and we tell all the young working men and women to pay very close attention when they work for a company, whether they have a pension plan in place, a health benefit and all these sort of options, and that they should really research those options and make sure that they incorporate that in their overall financial plan for their later years.

[15:15]

Now one of the things that Bill 158 speaks about is to amend *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, as the minister alluded to earlier, that this particular plan itself, he used the word inclusive so people could be involved with that in terms of being part of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan.

I understood the wording he used was simple and very straightforward in terms of understanding what you're contributing to. It's consistent in terms of the practices being employed by other pension plans of this sort. He talks about it being flexible, a flexible plan, Mr. Speaker, where they're not obliged to contribute. And they certainly . . . I believe what he said is that they can exit when they want, and it's portable.

These are some of the languages that the minister has attached to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, and these are the qualities I think a lot of people are looking for when they want to invest in the pension plan and have it professionally managed. So everything from being inclusive to being consistent and to being portable, these are some of the terminology and the wording that I think a lot of younger people will want to pay close attention to. And of course we would also encourage that.

So the bill itself, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan bill talks about some of the qualities that many pension plans have, and we see that same language here. And this is the important part, Mr. Speaker, is that the Saskatchewan Pension Plan ought to be consistent with some of the more successful pension plans that are out there, and watch how the best practices of other pension plans are benefiting many of their members.

And this is something I think is also really important. The minister talked about updating the language in the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, which I think is really important. And I go back to the notion of being consistent in terms of their practice to other similar pension plans throughout the country. And, Mr. Speaker, they also talked about the provisions from Bill 82 where they want to make sure that some of the provisions that are made in Bill 82 are included in this particular plan. And, Mr. Speaker, we have to now go back to Bill 82 to make sure that some of the information that they have presented in Bill 82 are similar to what is being proposed in this

particular bill, Bill 158.

The minister also talked about a specialty fund where they're . . . it's allowing for the unitization of your funds, talking certainly about when you talk about mutual funds overall. And these are some of the languages and some of the issues that we have to take every step and every opportunity to learn. What is exactly meant by unitization? What is the mutual fund market? What's that all about? And, Mr. Speaker, how does that benefit the participants in this particular Saskatchewan Pension Plan?

This is the information that is critical. A lot of younger people need to know what exactly is required, what is exactly is meant by unitization. Mr. Speaker, the Finance people are recommending language such as the . . . [inaudible] . . . annuity, LIRA. These are some of the wording I think, Mr. Speaker, that's really, really important that we pay close attention to, what exactly is being proposed. And this is where I often will make the point that many people throughout Saskatchewan need to have this particular financial literacy in terms of understanding what the pension plan looks like, what it could offer, what are the components of it, what are the best practices, how it's being managed. The list goes on and on and on as to what we need to do to understand pensions, Mr. Speaker.

I know that there's a lot of professional financial planners out there that are consistently going to updates and in training programs to better hone their skills and their knowledge so they can turn around and give that advice to the average layperson, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's really important because they are the professionals. But the average consumer, the person that will contribute to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, I think we need to make an effort to certainly explain to the public overall some of the terminology used in the pension plan so they're better able to understand this particular aspect. So I think it's something that is really, really important.

Mr. Speaker, some of the changes on the bill itself, Bill 158, it talked about section 3 where there are changes made to the definition of the spouse to a more modern definition. And these are some of again the terminologies, never mind the financial terminology, but now in this day and age that you have to really pay attention to the phrase definition of a spouse.

Mr. Speaker, I also know that section 5 allows cabinet to expand the plan's offerings and allow retirees to keep their money in the plan and collect if they choose. And that's one of the points that we also raised on the flexibility issue. And this is something that we have to pay very close attention to, because often I tell people back home, if you want to understand a complex issue — pension plans are complex — then look at the people that are involved with the pension. Usually be the people that have retired from civil service or people that have been professional people or managers all their life. See what they're doing. Talk to them. Learn from them as well.

I think it's a really, really important key when you want to expand your knowledge about pension plans to approach the right people and ask a bunch of questions. And that's why I think it's important under the Saskatchewan Pension Plan that there is the ability for the average person to ask questions as to how they can participate, what information that is required of them, and any other information that they feel is relevant before

they join into the pension plan, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan.

So we have to ask the questions. Who asked for some of these changes? Which is really important. Which group asked for the changes under *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*? Why did they ask for those changes? Who's the benefactor of some of those changes? And while there may be a straightforward communication issue such as the definition of a spouse, as I mentioned a bit earlier, but is there any kind of financial benefit to a certain, particular group of people and we don't know that at the outset?

These are changes being brought forward. And I think it's really, really important that we ask the questions: who brought these changes forward, and who benefits from these changes? And is there any disproportionate negative effect on a certain group of people? We would like to know that information as well, Mr. Speaker.

And again we would strongly encourage people to look at the wide variety of pension plans that are out there and to do a good analysis. I guess the best thing, I would encourage people out there, just talk to a financial planner. They make a lot of this work easier, and you can understand it greater.

But it's important that you begin to try and understand how the pension plan system works earlier in your life, because really it'll affect you in a positive way as you age. Because you've had all this knowledge and you're able to apply it strategically when it comes to putting money away, whether it's an RRSP or whether it's through your contribution to the CPP or whether it's your contribution to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan or to the public employees pension plan, whatever plan is out there.

There are so many plans out there. There are so many different options in the marketplace that it becomes very confusing and conflicting as to where you'd like to put your money. And, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the aspects I think is really important when it comes to the pension plan, is to make sure that you take the time to understand it. Look at the different options that are out there, the best practices. Where's the best place to invest your money? How could you do a complement of RRSPs, RESPs [registered education savings plan], which are for education purposes, whether you are PEPP [public employees pension plan] member or whether you're an SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] member?

It becomes very confusing at times, and there's all these options out there, but you must make the effort. And people out there, young and old, must make the effort to try and understand how the pension plans work so they can best design a plan for themselves, so they're able to retire with an adequate amount of money in their later years.

So this is the important part of these particular bills. It's a complex world when we look at pension plans, very complex. It's very interactive, yet it's very competitive as well.

So we look at the cost. Is there any liability to the taxpayer in this instance? Again, who was consulted and who is at risk? So these are some of the things that we look at when we talk about Bill 158.

We have got to encourage people young and old to really pay a lot of attention to the pension plans throughout Saskatchewan and throughout Canada as a whole. But in particular we've got to make sure that they pay close attention to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan because, as the minister alluded to, there are options for many people to engage themselves in this plan. And there may be a lot of merit for them to join this plan, but they've got to do the research on their own or seek advice or get professional advice from the different many financial planners out there that could give you very sound advice on how to prepare for their retiring years, for your retiring years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some of the other issues on this particular bill: many of the clauses, I pointed out earlier, deal with Bill 82 which has passed third reading but was never proclaimed. Now it goes through this Assembly and you have your first and your second and your third reading and after third reading, after it's been passed through the Assembly under third reading, then it's all up to the government to proclaim the particular Act. And what we notice on Bill 82, which has many of these changes on this particular bill, that they never did proclaim that bill previously.

Now obviously the government's not doing their homework properly because why propose a bill, why propose the bill, go through all the steps in the legislative agenda, and then later on not proclaim it? Now many people that were expecting the changes in the previous bill, Bill 82, when those changes were put through the Legislative Assembly, they assumed that it was going to be proclaimed and that it soon become law.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing that it hasn't been proclaimed, and the question we're going to ask is, why has it not been proclaimed? And obviously there's some shortcomings on Bill 82. There may have been some oversight on some major issues on Bill 82 and all of a sudden the government didn't proclaim it. They had ample opportunity to do all the research. They had ample opportunity to go out and do the consultation. And obviously Bill 82 not being proclaimed would tell us that there is a problem in Bill 82 that this government didn't anticipate or didn't do their homework, so now they're back, again back to the drawing board. And what's happening, Mr. Speaker, on this particular bill, Bill 158, they're now putting some of those provisions that they had previously under Bill 82.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we've seen is the underperformance by this government. We've seen evidence over the years of how they just can't seem to get things right, Mr. Speaker. And Bill 158 is another example of how they have to recycle a previous bill, and that bill being Bill 82, put it in under this particular bill under a new heading, and now try and get it right this time. And that's why in opposition we ask the questions, we ask the people that are engaged, are these guys doing the right thing? Are the Saskatchewan Party government doing the right thing? And who did they consult? Who did they consult? And, Mr. Speaker, who's the net benefactor of some of the changes that they made in any of the Acts that they propose?

So what we see from our vantage point, Mr. Speaker, is obviously this government has underperformed. Somebody dropped the ball on Bill 82. They got it through the Assembly because they are 48 members and now, Mr. Speaker, we're finding out that they couldn't get Bill 48 because they missed a

bunch of their homework. And obviously they couldn't proclaim it because it wasn't complete, so now they turn around and next legislative agenda, here we are again. The official opposition is saying, can you get this particular bill right? Because obviously you're bringing it back under a different title, under a different number, and you never got your homework done.

So from our perspective, Mr. Speaker, once again this is evidence of an underperforming government that simply has lost their way, doesn't know the legislative agenda from how to financially manage the future of some of these pension plans, Mr. Speaker. And this is another good example why it's important to have the opposition engaged and to make sure we send a message to people out there — the financial planners, the people in the know, in the banking industry, the chartered accountants, people that have a lot of this information.

We're asking them to review what's all in the bill, Bill 158, which is to amend *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. And who are the net benefactors? And how does this bill affect the activity of the pension plan so far? And even though the wording sounds promising at the outset, when you talk about flexibility, when you talk about being very simplistic, when you talk about being inclusive, Mr. Speaker, we're finding out that being inclusive of some of the consultations and simplistic and inclusive and being inclusive of the people to begin with, what we're finding out, Mr. Speaker, as a result of some of them, the changes proposed on the Bill 82, that the government didn't get it figured out from day one.

They couldn't figure it out then. So they recycled this bill, come back as saying to the people of Saskatchewan, oops, we made a mistake. We didn't get this bill done properly. We didn't do all the consultation properly. We may have missed a few key provisions in Bill 82. So now we're going to recycle the bill under another name and under another numbered bill, Bill 158. And here we are again, Mr. Speaker. Here we are again.

So these are some of the things that we have to ask in this particular bill. There are so many, so many options out there for pension plans. There are so many players that people have got to pay close attention. That was the first initial comment we had.

The second thing is, who did this particular government consult? And what did they mess up in the original bill, Bill 82? What did they mess up so badly that despite going to the legislative agenda for three readings of this particular bill, they couldn't proclaim it? Because obviously somebody on that side dropped the ball, and we will certainly find that information out as we continue going down the path of this particular bill, Bill 158.

So there is a lot of information that we need to ask, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to ask folks out there that have any of this particular interest and to give us advice. And obviously what we would advise the public out there, whether in Beauval, Saskatchewan or in Buffalo Narrows or whether you're in Swift Current or whether you're in Moose Jaw, the important thing is to pay close attention to the pension plan, plans that are out there, and to learn as much as you can. Because a well-informed public, Mr. Speaker, certainly helps the future of our province

and certainly helps those that are getting on in their years being able to survive comfortably as opposed to some of the hard lessons that is being learned by many of the elders in my community, where old age security and the supplementary income from the old age security department is simply not enough to cover your rent, your food, your power, your medicine, your clothing, your essentials, Mr. Speaker. Many elders struggle every single day in the North and we understand exactly what they're going through. So they're giving us advice, to myself and to many young people, pay attention to these pension plans because they'll serve you well in the future. And that's basically one important message that I certainly have.

[15:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, Bill 82, big mistakes made on that bill by the Saskatchewan Party government. Bill 158 is presented to cover up those mistakes in the hope they can get it right this time, and we pray they can get it right this time, Mr. Speaker. But we need to make sure that they're not making any more mistakes because Bill 158 is a classic example of a government that's been underperforming and underachieving, despite having record revenues over the last seven years, Mr. Speaker.

And that's one of the important lessons that we've learned in opposition, is that the Saskatchewan Party government simply can't get it right. They make many, many mistakes and they come back to the drawing board on many occasions. And Bill 158 is a classic example of how they've messed something up, couldn't proclaim their last Act because they didn't do their homework, and now here we are once again recycling a bill under a different name because the Saskatchewan Party government couldn't get the job done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have a lot more information and are much more astute in the pension plan debate and issues than I am. I'm looking forward to some of their comments. But at the outset, as the official opposition, we're encouraging people to again pay attention to the pension plan issue. Financially plan for your future. Secondly, pay attention to bills of these sorts because they do have an impact and they do have an effect on people that may want to choose the Saskatchewan Pension Plan as a vehicle in which they would invest some of their savings. And, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the key things as a result of this particular Assembly, is people out there should be getting the information and should be subjected to the information through the television medium to ensure that they have some understanding what the pension plans are all about.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, the opposition will certainly take their time to network with people that are in the know and amongst our own connections in our own network to find out what the changes are in this particular bill and to see if they hurt any families in Saskatchewan and to see how the Saskatchewan Party messed up the first go-round under Bill 82. And we will certainly expose them to that.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 158, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. I so move.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of

debate on Bill No. 158, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 153 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. This bill will make amendments to over 100 Acts to update outdated language, ensure gender-neutral language is used, and correct grammatical and reference errors.

Saskatchewan's last general statute revision occurred in 1978. Since that time, several statute law amendment Acts have been introduced to correct errors. As time progresses, certain terms fall out of favour, Mr. Speaker. In 2012 an inter-ministerial committee with representatives from the ministries of Justice, Social Services, and Health provided a report with recommendations on potential amendments to legislation affecting adults in vulnerable circumstances. One of the recommendations was to update antiquated and offensive language in Saskatchewan legislation.

This bill amends four Acts to remove the term lunatic and another eight Acts to remove reference to mental incapacity or incompetence in favour of lacks capacity. Similarly as technology advances, terminology used in relation to technology also changes. What we previously referred to as telephone or facsimile transmission, electronic mail and Internet website are now commonly referred to as fax, email, and website. This bill will update this terminology in 18 Acts. This bill will also amend over 40 Acts to repeal the terms chairman and vice-chairman in favour of gender-neutral chairperson and vice-chairperson. This bill will also repeal and replace words that have a variety of spellings such as extra-provincial, in so far, subject matter, safe keeping, judgment, and pipe line to work toward more consistency. This will assist in more accurate electronic searches of Saskatchewan's legislation. A second bill is also being introduced, Mr. Speaker, to amend the bilingual Acts.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I am pleased to stand in my place today to give the initial comments on Bill 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. And, Mr. Speaker, as we look through the bill itself, obviously there is a number of bills that are being impacted, and the bills range in terms of the impact from simple language issues that need to have correct spelling, as was indicated, to correct the

language, and certainly to correct the gender-neutral designation issues that are all throughout some of these Acts.

And some of these Acts are fairly extensive Acts, so we have to really . . . What happens in the instance where governments come along and they change a bunch of Acts, and as innocuous as it may seem at the outset, it's just to do some spelling errors or to correct spelling errors, to correct the proper language, and to look at the gender-neutral designation issues? These are some of the things that are important to do. That's obviously making sure that Saskatchewan's Acts are newer, that Saskatchewan Acts have the right spelling, that they're bilingual, and that they have, as you mentioned, the correct language.

And some of the language of the older Acts are offensive, Mr. Speaker. There's a number of examples throughout my career, you know, as an MLA, where you find some of the offensive language that do not apply to this day and age. And certainly we would want to ensure that we modernize the language. And, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's really important is that it's a much more respectful environment when you do away with spelling or characterization of some of our people in 1920s or 1910 language because some of the language, as I've indicated at the outset, that we find that there is quite . . . There is some offence in some of the wording in some of the Acts that Saskatchewan may have had in their Acts from years and years ago.

So looking at this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, we are looking through the actual Acts that are being impacted and, as the minister alluded to, there are 100 Acts being impacted. We need to make sure that we see what these Acts are about. We don't suspect at the outset that changing the designation in terms of being gender-neutral is going to be a significant issue, but we want to see how the correct spelling, certainly how the correct language is being used, and, Mr. Speaker, it does impact 100 Acts.

And the minister also spoke about the bilingual aspect which is important to respect. So under that notion, Mr. Speaker, we're going to look at this particular bill. Anybody who has any advice of the Acts that are being impacted, that . . . You never know in some of these Acts that are being amended for spelling or for grammar or for language or for gender-neutral designation. Somewhere along the line some of these Acts, some of these designations may not help. It may hurt. So it's important for us to take the time to go through these Acts and certainly see where the changes are and what those changes are, and see if the changes are appropriate to each of these Acts.

So on that notion, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has moved adjournment on debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

**Bill No. 154 — *The Statute Law
Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi no 2 de 2014
modifiant le droit législatif***

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. As noted when introducing the English bill, Saskatchewan's last general statute revision occurred in 1978, and since that time several statute law amendment Acts have been introduced to correct errors.

This bill will amend 12 bilingual Acts to make amendments to update outdated language, ensure consistent spelling, and correct grammatical and reference errors, such as updating spelling of safekeeping, pipelines, subject-matter, insofar, and extraprovincial. It will replace telephone transmission, telecopier, facsimile, and electronic mail with fax and email, and it will replace "be of unsound mind" with "lack capacity."

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Once again as I said on the previous bill, these bills are bills that are necessary in terms of the housekeeping aspect of being in government. We look at Bill 154, and it's primarily a language matter in which we want to make sure that the bills are all bilingual in nature.

So again we're going to be studying all of the Acts that are being impacted. The particular bilingual designation of some of these bills don't involve all 100 of the previous bills I spoke about, but obviously this is not an issue that we would hold up the Assembly for because obviously we want to encourage people and encourage the government to do as much as they can to respect the bilingual Act of Canada. And simply converting a lot of these particular bills into the bilingual law that's impacting all of us, I don't think the opposition has too many concerns with that. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 154, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 154, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 155 — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute
Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 sur les
directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé***

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*.

Since the Supreme Court of Canada's 1988 decision in *R. v. Mercure*, the Government of Saskatchewan has enacted approximately 57 bilingual Acts. The translation program is designed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's francophone community. This bill will repeal and replace *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act* with a new bilingual Act. There are no changes in substance. The consequential English-only bill accompanies this Act to amend four Acts that reference the current Act.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading on Bill No. 155, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Certainly from our perspective, as I mentioned, as the official opposition, it is my honour again to stand to give the initial comments on some of the bills being proposed by the government. And, Mr. Speaker, Bill 155, and I believe the next bill, 156, which is really speaking of *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*, Mr. Speaker, we certainly don't want to take away from the fact that some of the provisions in this particular Act and some of the intent of this particular bill coming forward is really to respect the bilingual nature of what governments have to do across the country. And Saskatchewan is not immune to that. We obviously want to respect the particular law that encouraged us to put all of our bills under the French language, which of course is also really important, you know, to do.

There are a number of Acts on one bill, Bill 156, Mr. Speaker, and Bill 155. Bill 156 makes minor changes to a number of Acts in order to update the changes in this particular bill, 155, so that the thrust of all the changes in these next two bills, 155 and 156, are contained in this particular Act. So we have to really pay close attention to what the Acts are about and what's the value, Mr. Speaker, of bringing a bill forward. And this particular bill really talks about changing some of the Acts as it pertains to this issue to convert some of those Acts into French.

But what it does, it gives the opposition, Mr. Speaker, an opportunity to understand what the Act really is about, this particular Act, when you talk about respecting health care directives and substitute health care decision makers. So substitute health care decision makers are people that you would look at in the event that someone was quite ill. Who would you speak to if that person cannot speak for themselves, if they're incapacitated in some way, shape, or form? And obviously how would you . . . Who would speak for that person that was ill and couldn't respond on their own?

[15:45]

Well Bill 155 makes a few changes around the rules about power of attorney and guardianship if people become ill or they lack capacity. Mr. Speaker, that's what's really, really important is that we want to make sure that families have as much time and as much information, as much compassion as possible when making some of these decisions.

So this bill has a lot of issues attached to it. We want to make sure that we pay attention to the bill itself, not just to the provisions in the bill that talks about changing it into the bilingual nature to ensure that we conform to the law that encourages or demands that governments across the country have every Act in a bilingual text.

So I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, that we pay attention to some of these issues. As I said at the outset, there is a lot of issues around quality of care when one becomes incapacitated. The bill itself has a lot of ramifications to a lot of families out there, not just simply translating the bill into French. That's obviously the thrust of what's happening here but there are a few little changes that we have to pay very close attention to.

And again as I mentioned there are some rules around power of attorney or guardianship for those people who become too ill or lack capacity to make decisions about their care, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that it's easier on families, as I said at the outset. But who makes these decisions? Who decides for you?

And section 15 of this particular Act differentiates between whole-blood and half-blood relatives. And, you know, we're wondering where did this strange, archaic language come from? Because obviously we want to make sure that we update the language, as I indicated. And to me, I think we need to identify what is meant by whole blood or half blood.

It also talks about section 17 which actually delegates health decision makers for members of a religious order to their superiors if they do not designate a proxy. So, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the things that we have to pay very close attention because this whole debate around quality of life as one ages or one has some very difficult circumstances or becomes very ill, like there's just a wide . . . there's a myriad of options for people in that situation. Family members could make a decision. A religious order could make a decision. A health care professional, in the event that there isn't a family available, can make a decision. There's all these different players around somebody that's quite ill, and there's so many different emotions attached to each option that's available to each particular section of people that are identified in the Act that could make a decision around somebody's future care and of course somebody's life.

So it's important that we pay close attention to not just the French provisions but to see what changes are being made in some of these Acts, and that's why it's important and it's incumbent upon the opposition to pay very close attention. Because some of these bills, while they say it's only a provision to update the language, a provision to do the correct terminology, a provision to transpose it into French, what we find, Mr. Speaker, is from time to time the government tries to sneak in one small change here and there that could result in a quality-of-care issue. We want to try and catch that.

And that's one of the reasons why we have these second reading speeches and one of the reasons why I think it's important that we ask the questions at the initial outset and have our research team go through this bill page by page, line by line to ensure what is being proposed here is what the intent of the government is, and that they don't have a different plan or a change of plans when it comes to caring for somebody that's quite ill and who makes the decision about that person's future care and of course their life.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, again we're paying close attention to some of the changes on this particular bill. And I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 155, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*. I so move.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 155, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 156 — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

This Act makes consequential amendments to four Acts that reference *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*, namely: *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*, *The Electronic Information and Documents Act*, *The Health Information Protection Act*, and *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. As *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act* is being repealed and replaced with a new bilingual version, each of these four Acts mentioned will be updated to reference the name of the new Act. There are no changes in substance to any of these Acts amended by this bill, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, and as I pointed out in the earlier discussion, that we look at this particular bill, and while there isn't any particular aspect of the bill being changed, it really does highlight the need for us to pay attention

to these particular bills because the provision here is simply to do a language change, Mr. Speaker. But what it gives the opposition the opportunity to do is — okay, we do have a language change being proposed under Bill 156 — we want to make sure that there aren't any other changes.

And there are a few little changes, as I said at the outset, that we want to pay a bit of attention to, and of course some of the bills really revolve around power of attorney and guardianship when people become ill or lack capacity. It also talks a bit about the co-decision makers Act, Mr. Speaker.

So these are issues that we don't see any particular changes being proposed in this particular Act, primarily to convert the Act into French from what I can understand. And certainly we're not to argue with the conversion to French. We think that is the law and we have to follow the law, of course. But what we want to do is make a bit of a . . . It gives us a chance to focus on some of the Act itself.

And part of the initial look at the Act itself, we talk about the rules around power of attorney, and these are some of the things that are really, really important to us, Mr. Speaker, because we hear a lot of debate out there in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada on this whole right-to-die issue. It's just, people out there are just all caught up with that particular Act, and we see a lot of the whole notion around Bill 156, that there may be some changes and challenges to how the bill is being drafted.

So these are some of the things you cannot take lightly, as I mentioned at the outset. The bill is just primarily a French language revision that is necessary, but when you bring a bill forward of this sort, it gives the opposition an opportunity to look at the bill in detail, to say, okay, while this is a French conversion only, we want to make sure that the bill itself is in good hands and that there is no major changes attached to them. And that's of course our role as the official opposition.

So there is again the section 15 as indicated, you know, that differentiates between whole-blood and half-blood relatives. You know, we need to know where that language came from and, Mr. Speaker, it is something that we think we have to pay attention to.

But by and large, the bill is primarily an effort to convert it into French as required by law. Then we will certainly either hold the bill up or let it proceed quickly, but at this stage of the bill itself, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. I so move.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 157 — *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. Mr. Speaker, this new legislation will repeal *The Human Tissue Gift Act*, which is outdated.

Unfortunately the current legislation prevents Saskatchewan's health system from being more innovative in finding matches for patients waiting for an organ or tissue transplant. We must modernize the legislation so that our health system can respond quickly to innovations. We owe this to those who face a decline in their health while waiting for a transplant.

This legislation will allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations that establish standards, practices, and procedures that improve access to transplantation. With this increased flexibility, Saskatchewan's transplant services can better reflect current practices in organ and tissue donations and can take advantage of opportunities to improve care for patients.

The need for organ and tissue transplants in Saskatchewan far exceeds the number of donors. For the approximately 90 people waiting for a kidney transplant, the wait can mean months and years of intense, tiring, and time-consuming dialysis treatments three times a week. As a result many of these people are unable to work full time, if they can work at all.

Mr. Speaker, despite the Saskatchewan transplant program's best efforts, too many people wait too long for a transplant. Some people on waiting lists can't live long enough to become a transplant recipient. Even with the generosity of live donors for some kidney, liver, and lung transplants, the supply still does not match the need.

Improving the lives of the more than 90 Saskatchewan people who are often waiting for a cornea transplant is just one area that could be addressed through regulations that could provide greater flexibility of procuring corneas. After careful consideration and consultation, regulations could be developed under this legislation to give medical teams in Saskatchewan the flexibility that now exists in Alberta: the ability to augment donations with the purchase of corneas. This has the potential to allow some of our citizens to have their sight restored much sooner than is currently possible.

We have the opportunity to remove impediments that can delay life-saving or life-enhancing treatments for Saskatchewan residents whose health has been comprised. For this reason, I believe it's important to bring this legislation to the House today. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Bill 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act*, this is a really important bill. As I had indicated to a number of people, before the Assembly,

that we go through each of these bills being proposed by the government in a three-phase process. First of all they do the first reading where they introduce the bill, and of course the second reading is where we have our first opportunity to get an explanation as to what the bill's all about and of course the official opposition's initial comment about the particular bill. So this particular bill, this is our first opportunity to have some public statements made on Bill 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't think anybody in the Assembly, I don't think anybody within the New Democratic circles disagree that we should do all we can to help a fellow person out in the event that you're able to donate organs, either through a voluntary measure or through some misfortune where you've lost your life and you wish to donate some of your body parts to other people in Saskatchewan or beyond Saskatchewan that may have need of some of your human tissue, so to speak. I don't think anybody is overly concerned about that, Mr. Speaker.

I think everybody would encourage those that haven't signed their organ donor permission forms that we would encourage them to do so because the gift of sight or the gift of a new kidney, the gift of improved health is something that I think many, many families would like to do as their sacrifice to help others. So I think overall, from the compassion perspective, when we look at the whole notion of donating human tissue or human organs so that others may have better health or a better life ahead of them, I think a lot of people in Saskatchewan genuinely think, you know, that's not really a bad concept.

But what we see under Bill 157, Mr. Speaker, you've got to be very careful here that we pay . . . And that's what is one of the reasons why we pay very close attention to these bills. When we get the initial explanation of the bill from the minister, you know, we want to hear exactly what their intent is with this particular bill, and we want to look at the wording and the language in the bill, and of course we're going to ask other people for advice on the bill itself.

[16:00]

But one of the things that we find out when the minister talks about being more innovative on the human tissue gift process, we want to be more exciting, more innovative. There's so many families suffering from this. We believe that some of these changes to the rules around Bill 157, around organ donations, is that the bill now allows for the purchase of tissues.

Now what does that mean, Mr. Speaker? We need to find that out at the outset because the rules aren't in the Act. The Act itself has explanatory notes. What's going to happen is they'll come later with the regulations attached to this Act, and what happens is the regulations are not part of the Act. They're designed by government later on. And what we don't get an opportunity to see are the changes made to the rules around some of these Acts.

We can see the Act which is what we're doing today. But after the Act has been proclaimed and, in the heat of summer, it may be a whole different set of rules that the government comes along and arbitrarily puts in behind this Act, which really

changes the nature and the intent of the Act, from our perspective. And that's why it's important to pay very close attention to the rules and regulations around some of these bills, just as much as you would to the initial bill when it's first brought forward in the Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, we think under Bill 157, this changes the rules around the purchase of certain human tissues. And, Mr. Speaker, what we don't want to do is start seeing the process begin to unfold where people will be allowed to buy organs from other people, as this raises a lot of ethical questions. Is it going to allow the queue jumping, Mr. Speaker? These are some of the things that we have to ask when we look at this particular bill and what the intent of the Sask Party government is because this really raises a lot of questions on this particular bill.

So obviously the initial questions that we asked: are there different other ways to address, better ways to address the shortage of organs for transplant, as the minister alluded to? If there will now be purchase of tissues made available, will there be companies selling those tissues to the highest bidder? You know, will corporations be making a profit off people's body parts? We didn't know these questions, Mr. Speaker. What is the intent? What is the agenda? What are the rules surrounding the human body, donation of human body parts? We need to find out and clarify what those rules are from the outset.

These are some of the things that people of Saskatchewan ought to know when we start talking about *The Human Tissue Gift Act*. We aren't going to discourage people from signing their donor card and doing all they can to help other families in the event that they can afford to donate an organ or, Mr. Speaker, through an unfortunate tragic accident that they wish to do so. We would encourage that, Mr. Speaker. But this bill does raise a lot of questions that if you're allowed to buy or allowed to purchase tissues, it appears that the Act's allowing that, so we have to ask those questions at the outset. Who would be allowed to purchase human tissue? Is it going to be a corporation? Is it going to be anybody who has the money? Like how will the government be involved in this process? These are some of the really, really tough questions that need to be asked.

And, Mr. Speaker, this bill cannot be just presented as itself here today, where it doesn't have any rules or regulations attached to it. That is kind of where you'll find they'll flesh out a lot of their approaches to the rules. And this is why it's important to pay attention to when the government come along and proclaim this bill. They'll have a set of rules attached to it and generally, Mr. Speaker, as the Sask Party government likes to do, they hide the rules and they unveil the rules in the middle of summer when everyone is travelling or when less people are paying attention to some of the rules. And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen that happen time and time again.

So this is a really important matter. It's a very, very important issue. It raises a whole bunch of questions. It has a lot of ethical debate attached to it, depending on what kind of rules and regulations the Sask Party want to put in. And, Mr. Speaker, what you want to do is ensure one thing: is that those that are voluntarily donating their organs or tissues to help family members, or family does it when somebody is killed in an

accident or dies from other causes, that if they're family and they wish to donate organs, we applaud that particular effort because it will help somebody with their health problems and certainly improve their quality of life. And the theory is that that is from the compassionate, common sense Saskatchewan solution. We would encourage that.

However, Mr. Speaker, when you start talking about purchasing of tissues, human tissues, that raises a whole bunch of other questions. And this is why it's important that we follow through and follow up on what the Act is trying to do and that we follow up and follow through on what regulation the Saskatchewan Party government puts in place to achieve the objective that they've outlined in this particular bill.

So we have a lot of questions on this particular Act. We're glad to hear the minister give us an explanation. There's no question that we will be paying attention to this.

And the biggest note that we have is that who have they asked and consulted with on this particular bill? Have they talked to the Saskatchewan Medical Association? Have they talked to the Canadian Medical Association? Have they spoken to families that are impacted by this? Are they talking to the health care system? I hope it's not John Black and Company. But are they talking to the front-line workers, the surgeons, people that get involved with this, the people that are involved with the automobile accidents? These are some of the organizations that we would like to see if they had any discussion with.

Like where did this notion come from that they're now going to allow purchasing of body parts? We need to find out, Mr. Speaker, if that's their intent. We need to find out who they consulted, why these provisions are being brought forward. And, Mr. Speaker, what kind of rules and regulations lay in waiting as a result of the Sask Party's hidden agenda, so to speak, when it comes to trying to deviate from what is being presented through bills versus what they're implementing for the rules and regulations that they are famous for hiding until the last minute.

So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of questions on this particular bill. We're going to pay very, very close attention to this one as it does raise a lot of eyebrows. It does raise a lot of concern. There's a lot of ethics attached to this particular bill. So we're going to take our time on this bill and walk through this carefully to make sure we come up with a clear position and force that clear position from the Sask Party government so we know exactly what the intent and directive of this bill is being followed through to the letter, Mr. Speaker, because, as I indicated, there are some concerns on Bill 157.

So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. I so move.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 149 — *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*** 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 join debate today on Bill No. 149, *The Health Administration Amendment Act*. Certainly in the legislative agenda brought forward by the government, we see things that could be described as housekeeping, things that could be more about minor renovations, Mr. Speaker, things that are building whole new houses unto themselves. And it's here where I realize I'm channelling the Premier from his address to the Sask Party convention, so I'll try to cut that out.

But in terms of what's being built here with this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, this is in response to the continuing evolution of eHealth and using electronic means to contain health information. We've also seen legislation brought forward around vital statistics being transferred to the purview of that agency. And so it makes a certain amount of sense that we see a piece of legislation today where again keeping up with the evolution of how the health information is registered in this province, how that might be appropriately transferred from the Ministry of Health over to eHealth Saskatchewan.

In his second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, the minister talked about, again, just that, wherein the health registration was previously a branch within the Ministry of Health, and how the program had "... worked closely with eHealth to provide support for the electronic system that runs the application, the online application and renewal process for health cards," quoting from the minister's second reading speech of November 4th, Mr. Speaker.

Again in terms of what's happening here, this is as it should be, properly establishing the ministerial authority under the Act so that as this is continued, and as health information, and as again with vital statistics, is consolidated under the legislative purview of eHealth, that that be done so lawfully and that it be properly authorized under the law.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the amendment that we're considering here today, there are two subsections of section 6.5 of *The Health Administration Act* that is being considered here today are the meat of the legislation.

So as it exists right now, Mr. Speaker, under the current health administration Act under the section dealing with cards, section 6.5, there's the section 6.5(2):

The minister may, in accordance with this section, issue cards to beneficiaries for the purpose of identifying persons as beneficiaries.

What this legislation is setting out to do, Mr. Speaker, is to then incorporate the proper authority transferring what had been under the Ministry of Health over to eHealth. And of course, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what's being contemplated here, so section 2 of the Bill No. 149 states:

Section 6.5 of *The Health Administration Act* is amended by adding the following subsections after subsection (2):

“(2.1) Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the minister may designate all or any of the following to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the minister described in this section:

(a) a Crown corporation within the meaning of *The Crown Corporations Act, 1993*;

(b) an agency of the Government of Saskatchewan.

“(2.2) If the minister has designated a Crown corporation or an agency of the Government of Saskatchewan to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the minister pursuant to subsection (2.1):

[it is] (a) unless otherwise directed by the minister, any action, power or conclusion to be performed, exercised or arrived at by the minister pursuant to this section may be performed, exercised or arrived at by the Crown corporation or the agency of the Government of Saskatchewan, as the case may be; and

(b) any order directed to the minister pursuant to this section shall be directed to the Crown corporation or the agency of the Government of Saskatchewan, as the case may be”.

So again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of properly establishing the legal authority for eHealth to be doing the work that has been set out for it by this government and again, Mr. Speaker, it's more about the evolution and the technology and what is arguably a natural progression, as I think the minister had referred to it. And on the face of it, this would seem to be a proposition worth agreeing with, that all the health information be consolidated under the purview of eHealth Saskatchewan.

Now it will be interesting to find out, Mr. Speaker — and maybe this is a conversation better suited to committee where of course you can have a closer questioning or conversation with the minister and officials as regards the content and the implications of the Act under question — but certainly the way that this coincides with the broader question of health information privacy, Mr. Speaker, and certainly the way that again when things are stored on an electronic basis, again maybe that's not part of the eHealth legislation, but certainly it should be around the protocols that are more generally observed by this government and should be observed by this government as regards the security of health information or private information generally for the citizenry. That's something that we'll be looking for some assurance on.

[16:15]

We'll be looking to see how eHealth generally is evolving as an entity in and of itself. And we've seen, be it with electronic health records or with the experience in other jurisdictions with large-scale information technology projects — and certainly we've seen that in different ways here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — when you've got large-scale information technology projects, there's oftentimes a significant opportunity for different things to go wrong, not the least of being cost overruns in terms of how the initial project was supposed to be taken up, but again as well the questions around security of that information for the citizenry and what people can expect in terms of the health card that they carry in their wallet, Mr. Speaker, and how that is secure or not, or what are the different challenges that have been contemplated and addressed by this government and by an agency such as eHealth, and what is the change in that approach as these tranches of information move from the Ministry of Health to eHealth Saskatchewan.

So we've got a number of questions, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how this legislation will impact the situation for citizens in this province. Again on the face of it, it seems to be a fairly straightforward proposition in terms of making sure that you're setting out the appropriate legal authority under the Act for eHealth to be the administrator for the health registration information in this province, but we'll have other questions on that as this goes along. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, we've got more consultation that we'll be undertaking to ensure that we're not just taking the minister's word for it but also doing that work of due diligence and ensuring that we're having that broader conversation with the people of Saskatchewan about this evolution in the way that their fundamental information is kept, Mr. Speaker, by their government.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*. I so move.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 149, *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 144** — *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm weighing in on debate as it relates to Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* today, and I'll keep my comments relatively brief here today. Certainly there's going to be important follow-up through this process, through the community process, but also with the important stakeholders who are providing supports and maintain relationships and have that extensive network of relationships but also that first-hand

knowledge within our communities on how best to strengthen and respond to such an unacceptable challenge that so many and too many people face, Mr. Speaker.

As it relates to domestic violence, certainly it's an issue that has prevalence and impacts far too many within our communities and our community and our province and our country. It's also a time right now that's sort of there in our national conscience and our public conscience because of unacceptable public or, I guess, unacceptable actions that have become public with high-profile media, a high-profile media individual here in Canada recently, but also different sports celebrities that have been profiled recently.

And that should allow an appropriate spotlight and attention to this, the unacceptable actions of many. But we need to recognize as well that these actions aren't, you know, something that are simply there for the national spotlight or international discussion. They're realities, harsh realities, for far too many in our communities here in Saskatchewan, here in Regina, right across our province.

So any measures that are going to provide better supports, better protections, for those that are subjected to domestic violence are certainly critically important ones that we would support. And how do . . . You know, and recognizing what sort of supports, what sort of programs, what sort of measures can be taken to drive cultural change that ensure and bring about healthy relationships for all, and ensure that all people here in our province have the security and protection they deserve is critically important and are actions that I'm sure we all would like to support.

Without a doubt, far too many people suffer in silence on this front, Mr. Speaker. We hear of those cases and those people that do speak out. But the reality for many is that the vast majority of violent acts, of domestic violence, of interpersonal relationship violence don't get reported, Mr. Speaker, and there's a whole host of reasons that are suggested to support why that's the case.

And these are the types of areas that we need to be focusing in on as a province, having the hard and real discussion that we need to and driving cultural change to support, certainly individuals who are subjected to domestic violence, to receive the supports that they deserve, to not be stigmatized and further victimized, Mr. Speaker, but also to make sure that we're bringing about changes and driving cultural change that will improve the security and safety of all Saskatchewan people in a lasting way, Mr. Speaker.

When I look at the changes that are made here, certainly we're going to be consulting directly with stakeholders to make sure that all consequences of these changes have been considered, certainly the intended consequences as described by the minister but also making sure that we understand any unintended consequences and to see if there's a place for which this legislation could be further strengthened, improved, or amended. And that's our job, Mr. Speaker.

I know when I look at the legislation itself, the aim of it appears to be certainly to provide better protection and support and response. That's important. And most of it relates to a

broadening of scope for the ability of intervention and of response, and a broader definition of relationships, it would appear, Mr. Speaker. These are all important pieces.

And I suspect, if the consultation has been done on this bill as it should, will be pieces that certainly we would be supportive of, Mr. Speaker. The goals of this bill are important goals, but what we need to do at this point in time is make sure that the actual practical changes are as strong as they can be, are as impactful in a positive way as they can be, and that they don't have a set of unintended consequences that haven't been considered.

And as I say, this is an important issue that's present in our community, something that certainly requires action. The legislation before us is encouraging, but we need to make sure that that legislation's as strong as it can be, that the supports that are needed within our community to make sure that victims of domestic violence . . . are extended to many more, Mr. Speaker, that we, as I say, continue to address social challenges around stigma and making sure that there's avenues and supports for those to not only speak out and not be further victimized but that they be supported, empowered, and that all our understanding . . . or that all the impacts of domestic violence are understood.

Certainly the tragic reality is that in too many households, in too many relationships, in too many people's lives, domestic violence is a sad and tragic reality, one that has a whole host of negative impacts, both on the individual and on a family. And it's certainly the kind of issue where we need to certainly be redoubling our effort and making sure we're reaching out to all those engaged in making life better for those that are both facing domestic violence but also in changing society to ensure there's better supports for all Saskatchewan people and changing society to ensure that domestic violence is something that we can reduce and eliminate in many people's lives across our province.

So I guess I just would want to weigh in and say that in general I'm pleased to see some legislation on this front. The comments put forward by the minister are in general sort of broadening of scope to allow for intervention and speaking to a changing nature of relationships or making sure that it's as reflective as it can be of modern realities here today.

Our job is now to engage with government and certainly, importantly with stakeholders to make sure that this legislation's as comprehensive as it should be, that it's built out of direct consultation with those who know best, and that there's not a host of unintended consequences that are in place. And certainly we'll be entering into this with a full intent of supporting legislation that's good for Saskatchewan people and, where possible and if possible, strengthening that legislation, recognizing that there's so much work to be done on this front in ensuring better peace, better security, and safety for all Saskatchewan people.

With that being said, I adjourn debate at this point in time for Bill No. 144.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to

adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 152

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 152** — *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having just weighed in on the bill that is causing these consequential amendments to be brought forward, Bill No. 144, the victims of domestic violence, and speaking about how important this issue is for Saskatchewan people and for all people, in speaking specifically about how critical it is that we get the legislation right and ensure the supports and cultural change that's required is going to be supported by both legislative changes but government resources and actions as well, I don't see a whole need to focus in too much on the actual consequential amendment Act that's put before us here, Bill No. 152.

But just again it's critical that we state very clearly how unacceptable domestic violence is, a relationship though interpersonal relationships in all aspects of society, whether in one's household or whether in the community. We need to recognize that far too many people that are victims of violence suffer in silence, and we have to do all we can to change that culture and provide better protection and safety and security for all.

So with that being said, this is an important file to the official opposition. It's one we care about. It's one that we're going to engage sincerely with those that are working on the ground, many stakeholders who provide very good and important supports, life-saving supports for many within our community, and that we'll fully engage in this dialogue and make sure that we do all we can to improve the lives for our constituents, those within our community and our province, Mr. Speaker. With that being said, I adjourn discussion of Bill No. 152.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 152, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 145

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 145** — *The Fee Waiver Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to wade into the debate today about Bill No. 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*.

I'd like to start, Mr. Speaker, by looking at the minister's second reading comments. And he talks about this government, this bill will be "... enhancing access to justice in the province of Saskatchewan." And, Mr. Speaker, it does in fact look like that is the case. Undoubtedly there are many questions that we'll have in committee, and seeing some of the details of this bill and how they could have done things even better, Mr. Speaker, but there are some very good things in this bill.

I think about some of my constituents who come into my office with challenges around tenancy issues with *The Residential Tenancies Act*, Mr. Speaker, or disputes with landlords and tenants. And just looking at the website, Mr. Speaker, to appeal to the residential tenancy tribunal, it is in fact a \$50 fee. And on the website it says there's no fee for a tenant to apply for a return of security deposit, but for all other applications is \$50. The fee is waived for anyone who is on social assistance or receives an old age security income supplement. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that there are working poor as well, Mr. Speaker, those people who work multiple jobs at low wages who still would need some financial support in this regard, Mr. Speaker, if they want to bring some of their issues forward.

When we go to the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission application form, so if you have difficulty or some issues with a decision of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], it is a \$75 application accompanying the form. And it says in fact that the commission can waive the application fee if the fee will cause a substantial hardship for the claimant, but that's not defined at all.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, so I think this bill, some of the things this bill sets out to do ... I just have touched on tribunals here. But what this bill does is allows for the waiver of administrative fees at courts and tribunals for lower income litigants. I think it formalizes the process or lays it out a little bit more clearly for people across the board, Mr. Speaker.

[So right now] there's no fee waiver program at small claims court ... [and] although the Court of Appeal will accept fee waivers issued for the Court of Queen's Bench, [as the minister points out] there's no process to obtain a new waiver at the Court of Appeal. The Act will allow individuals to apply for a fee waiver [now] at all three levels of court.

Another important piece about this ... So the two tribunals that are specifically mentioned in the Act are the ones that I've just talked about: the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission and the Office of Residential Tenancies. But they've left it open, Mr. Speaker, which I think is not a bad move at all, that there will be power to subscribe additional tribunals and government bodies in the future when they may be appropriate, so leaving it open for those unforeseen issues, Mr. Speaker.

Another important issue here is the Act — I think this goes to the whole sort of streamlining or making the process simple across tribunals and courts, Mr. Speaker:

The Act ... transfers administration of the fee waiver applications from the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission to individual courts and tribunals. Court and tribunal officials will have authority to administer application process, [and as the minister points out] will have discretionary authority to refer applications to the court or tribunal for determination where appropriate.

Another issue that the minister points out that the bill will be addressing is:

... [ensuring] that eligible individuals as well as courts and tribunals are not negatively impacted by administrative processes or delays. Eligibility for fee waivers will be based on simplified criteria set out in regulations [Mr. Speaker].

So I think another issue that's important to talk about is the when in the process. In the past — and the minister points this out, and actually I'll talk about this a little bit later — but the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan had some recommendations as well, which follow these particular recommendations ... Or the government is in fact accepting many of the Law Reform Commission's recommendations. And one of them, right now under current rules, a litigant must apply for a fee waiver for the Court of Queen's Bench prior to taking any other steps in the proceeding, so you have to come up with the money and do that prior to proceeding. So what ends up happening is individuals who aren't able to apply for a fee waiver prior to issuing a claim are prevented from receiving a fee waiver even if that person doesn't have the means to pay for the court fees. So this Act will remove this rule and allow litigants to apply for a fee waiver at any stage of the proceeding.

The minister points out that:

... this Act ... [has been] informed by the work of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan and the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia v. Attorney General of British Columbia*. [And he points out that] The Ministry of Justice has also consulted with the Saskatchewan legal community and has found widespread support for the changes.

So I just want to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the document that the minister said informed this bill in large measure. It was the final report of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, so this government's own Law Reform Commission. It's entitled *Access to Justice — Needy Person Certificates and Waiver of Fees*, and it came about in May 2013, Mr. Speaker. I think just drawing your attention to the summary of recommendations ... So it's great to see that many of the recommendations that are in this report are found in the bill, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the availability of fee waivers, the Law Reform Commission recommended that "Needy Person Certificates and fee waivers should be available to self-represented litigants."

That is included in this bill. That “Needy Person Certificates and fee waivers should be available at any point in a proceeding,” that is changing, Mr. Speaker. “A fee waiver program should be established in Small Claims Court.” I’m happy to say that this is included in this bill as well. And “Administrative tribunals in Saskatchewan that regularly adjudicate matters for members of the public should adopt fee waiver policies for individuals.” And that, in light of this bill, that will have to happen as well.

And, “The fee waiver application policy and process should be the same across all Saskatchewan courts and tribunals.” We’ll have to ask some questions about that, but it’s being . . . The fee waiver application is being left now to the individual court or tribunal, Mr. Speaker. But I just want to ensure that what works for one tribunal, whether it’s the residential tenancies tribunal or the automobile injury appeals tribunal, Mr. Speaker, are across the board.

And another part of this is a fee . . . Part 1 of the recommendations was that “A fee waiver application should be made directly to a court official or officer of a tribunal.” And that’s happening. So those are good things.

And I think in some, in the background of the Law Reform Commission’s paper, they talk about . . . I’d like to read in the introduction: “Access to the courts has been described as “one of the foundational pillars protecting the rights and freedoms of our citizens.” And that’s quoting Chief Justice Dickson. Or pardon me, actually that was the *B.C.G.E.U. v. British Columbia (Attorney General)* and there is a reference cited in the paper, Mr. Speaker.

So in our society, in order to be able to access . . . for equality and fairness, particularly for fairness, finances shouldn’t be a barrier to processes or decision-making processes, Mr. Speaker. It was interesting because the Law Reform Commission in their paper talks about court fees being a bar to access.

CLASSIC, which operates actually in the member from Saskatoon Centre’s constituency, CLASSIC stands for Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. So CLASSIC surveyed its clients to determine how frequently tribunal and court fees were a barrier to pursuing legal avenues. So I’d just like to read this into the record:

Of the clients who faced fees, 21 per cent were not able to pursue their matter because they could not afford the fee and no mechanism existed to have the fee waived. It is of significant concern that approximately one-fifth of low-income clients are not able to move forward with meritorious claims because they were not able to afford the fee.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Act should change and improve upon that situation, Mr. Speaker. Again your income should not be a barrier to achieving fairness, Mr. Speaker. That should definitely not be the case.

I just want to read into the record here a couple of stories from the paper, the Law Reform Commission’s paper that I think are important to hear, for people, Mr. Speaker, very specific cases, if you’ll just bear with me. So this is a case that is cited, that

CLASSIC, again the Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City, which I know we often refer folks to in our constituency office as well. They do very good work: law students working with lawyers to provide legal assistance. So these are a couple cases, Mr. Speaker, where because of financial barriers people did not have access to justice.

So this first case I’d like to read into the record, the first involved an application in the Court of Queen’s Bench:

Ms. W. is an elderly woman whose only source of income is her pension. Her adult son has a brain injury and lives in a care home. Ms. W.’s daughter-in-law is her son’s personal and property guardian, but she has left the country and began neglecting her duties.

Ms. W. wished to pursue guardianship for her son, to access the funds in his bank account to pay for his medical needs. Her application had a high probability of success. All other family members indicated that they would consent to the application and a hearing would not be necessary.

When CLASSIC advised Ms. W. of the costs associated with the application (which included a \$200 filing fee at the Court of Queen’s Bench), Ms. W. instructed us to drop the application. She said she would not be able to find the funds necessary to proceed. Ms. W. was forced to abandon her application because of the costs involved. She advised that she would continue caring for her son on her limited income as she could not afford to become his guardian.

Mr. Speaker, those stories undoubtedly . . . I know the things that crop up in our constituency offices, Mr. Speaker, and that would not be a unique situation.

Here’s another issue with, that came up in small claims court that was cited in the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan’s *Access to Justice — Needy Person Certificates and Waiver of Fees* documents. So this story involves small claims court:

Ms. F lives on social assistance in Saskatoon. She contacted CLASSIC in 2008 for assistance after she slipped and fell at a chain grocery store. After attempting to settle with the grocery store, the supervising lawyer decided the best course of action would be to file a statement of claim with Small Claims Court for the amount of \$20,000.00. The filing fee for such a claim is \$100.00. Although Ms. F had known about the fee for some time, she was unable to gather the funds to pay it. CLASSIC has now lost contact with this client and, unless she contacts CLASSIC of her own volition, will most likely close the file once the limitation date for filing the claim passes.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are some cases that, or stories that hopefully will occur less frequently because of this particular bill, Bill 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*. But I do know when we have the opportunity in committee, I have colleagues who are lawyers who will undoubtedly have some very, very thoughtful questions specific to the bill.

And I think those of us who work in some of the core

communities . . . and it's not just core communities, Mr. Speaker, poverty and low income exist throughout Saskatchewan. We just, I think, see it sometimes in large measure in some of the core communities, but the fact remains there are people of low income, people who work incredibly hard, often multiple jobs, who live across this province who this will have an impact on, Mr. Speaker.

I just have to point out though the irony. I think it's great that this government is in fact heeding the recommendations of its very own Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan in its May 2013 report. But I just want to draw your attention to another report of May 2013 from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan called *Civil Rights in Saskatchewan Long-Term Care Facilities*, Mr. Speaker. We actually had a bill, a private member's bill, this spring that outlined many of the recommendations or included many of the recommendations from this very report, Mr. Speaker, that this government has chosen . . . well in the spring, voted unanimously against a bill that would ensure that seniors have more dignity and better care, Mr. Speaker.

So I find it interesting that on one hand that the Minister of Justice is very happy to talk about using the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, its own Law Reform Commission, to make changes on fee waivers, but the Minister of Health completely is disregarding the report from the same month actually, May 2013, on *Civil Rights in Saskatchewan Long-Term Care Facilities*. So I think that that's a bit ironic, Mr. Speaker, and ashamed quite frankly.

But I do know I have colleagues who will be very interested in adding their thoughts to Bill 145 — I almost said Bill 155, Mr. Speaker — Bill 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*. And with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 146

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 146** — *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Fee Waiver Act* 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 enter the debate on Bill No. 146, which is a complement to the Bill 145 to which I just spoke, *The Fee Waiver Act*, Mr. Speaker.

This is an Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of *The Fee Waiver Act*. I think in my comments on Bill 145, I've covered off the gist of where we're coming from and some of the benefits that could be accrued

from the previous bill. But this particular bill will just be simply making consequential amendments to ensure that *The Fee Waiver Act* is in order, I guess, in essence, Mr. Speaker.

So again if there are any issues or thoughts that crop up, we'll have questions at committee. So with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 146, *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[16:45]

Bill No. 147

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 147** — *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to enter into this debate on Bill No. 147, *An Act to amend The Class Actions Act*. And it's a short Act. It's only one page, two pages if you count in a bilingual, but they're of the same . . . Very interesting debate that we could have about class actions.

And I have to just recognize my colleague from Nutana who gave a very good speech on this, talking about the history of class actions or group litigation that she had presented in the House a few days ago. Because it really was quite interesting what the history is of class action lawsuits through time, since the early 1100s I understand, where this was the kind of thing that was often done because it was a way to deal with justice quickly because we know . . . And there's that saying justice delayed is justice denied, and quite often there is a commonality between affronts to justice in our society. And there's no need to take a long time and there's no need to have individuals bring forward complaints where actually it's a group that you could do things quite effectively, quite efficiently.

So it is an interesting history that we have about class actions and that type of thing, and how it was sort of lost in the 1700s, and the impact of the American Revolution and the War of Independence, and how the whole move to individualism and how that lost the role of group justice. And so I think it's something that we should all be cognizant of, that this is a common and a pretty effective way to have justice served, and that we don't dismiss this kind of thing frivolously or out of hand, that we look at how can we make sure that we can have justice provided quickly and effectively to as many people as possible without making things so complicated. Because we know, and we've seen this and we see this in litigation, where things are drawn out for years and years and years. And we think this is an important discussion to have.

But I will want to discuss the specifics because I think it is interesting because even though it's just one page . . . And I will compare this to the section that it is repealing and talk about some of the differences between the two. And I'm no lawyer, but this is sort of where the common sense comes into it. So why are you taking out one section and putting in another section and what were the reasons for that?

And I would want to at the same time reflect on the minister's speech. And as we have talked about that there always is an interesting range of how effective or how enlightening the minister's speeches are when it comes to second readings. Some can be quite articulate and answer a lot of questions that we may have, and it's right there. And others leave a lot of questions unanswered.

And in this case I think that that is the case, that we will have lots of questions for committee, for the minister, around what does this really mean for an effective justice system here in Saskatchewan because, after all, that's what we want to strive for, that as I say, you know, if there's a case of justice delayed, that it's justice denied if people aren't aware that in fact that they may have a complaint, but they're grumbling or muttering to themselves at home not realizing that there's actually a court case out there, that in fact it can be dealt with.

And we see that arising more and more when it comes to environmental issues, whether it's flooding, that kind of thing, where really it's a group of people, a common class as they would say, a class of people who have the same concerns, who are affronted in the same way. Or consumerism, whether you've bought a car or you've bought some razors. I know some of us aren't buying as many razors as we should these days.

But, Mr. Speaker, all those kind of things, whether consumerism, environmentalism, and especially when we have issues around, you know, particularly in our society where both those issues are taking more and more prominence over in our day-to-day life, particularly in the issues of climate change, the impact that's having. That may be unknown, but the fact of the matter is that somebody should have been held to a higher standard, or if there was impact, a company did not fulfill its contractual obligations, then we need to have action.

And I think about that particularly when it comes to consumer products, whether it's cars that we buy, trucks we buy, or homes that we buy, all of those things. And we're seeing an onslaught of newer and newer products that may be untested or should have been tested or more fully tested, those kind of issues. And whether it's safety issues, that's all very, very important.

So there's a lot of issues here, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to take a minute to talk about essentially . . . And I will read the Act because it is so short, but it really talks about:

Section 40 of *The Class Actions Act* is repealed and the following substituted:

“Costs

40(1) The court or the Court of Appeal may award costs that the court or Court of Appeal considers appropriate with respect to any application, action, or appeal

pursuant to this Act.

(2) In determining whether a costs award should be made pursuant to subsection (1), the Court of Appeal may take into account one or more of the following:

- (a) the public interest;
- (b) whether the action involved a novel point of law;
- (c) whether the action was a test case;
- (d) access to justice for members of the public using class action proceedings;
- (e) any other factor that the court or the Court of Appeal considers appropriate.

And then:

(3) Class members, other than persons appointed as representative plaintiff for the class, are not liable for costs except with respect to the determination of the class member's individual claim.

(4) This section applies to proceedings commenced . . . [or] costs incurred before . . . or after this section comes into force.

And essentially that's it. There's a coming-into-force clause. This Act comes into force on assent.

So I'll start it with subsection (4). “This section applies to proceedings commenced and costs incurred before, on or after this section comes into force.” So essentially this is a retroactive bill, and we're not sure how far back it goes. What is the impact of this on class action lawsuits and litigation that's gone before? Is it 10 years prior, or what is the limitation to this? I don't believe the minister was clear on that and we'll have, in a few minutes, an opportunity to review what he had said about that. But it just seems to be an odd, odd situation and strange that you would have a piece of legislation coming forward from Justice that has a retroactivity to it that is not addressed.

Is there a certain lawsuit that has brought this forward, makes this necessary? That there is . . . That it is retroactive? And if that was the case, the minister didn't reference that in his remarks and we are very curious about that. What was the impetus for this clause?

Now I am not a lawyer, as I've said, but this is our job here to say, hey, this doesn't make a lot of common sense here because you're really opening up a lot of issues that can go back quite a ways. Because it says, “. . . commenced and costs incurred before, on or after this section comes into force.” And as we know, class actions can be very, very expensive. This is not an individual lawsuit where you sort of have . . . the numbers are known. Because obviously when you have class action lawsuits they can be quite large in settlements, in the impact, and costs can be quite large. So we are very, very curious about that.

And then that:

(3) Class members, other than a person appointed as representative plaintiff for the class, are not liable for the costs except with respect to the determination of the class member's individual claim.

So it sounds like the class members are not liable for costs other than the person who has been appointed as the representative plaintiff. So we're not sure how that process will work. It sounds like others are not responsible for the costs. I have questions. Is that fair? Is that the process that we have seen in other situations? How does that all work out? We understand it could be complicated, because how can you identify all members of the class? Especially if this is a case where it's a voluntary thing to come forward and say, I'm part of that group. I'm part of that group that bought that car. I'm part of that group that has that environmental impact. I'm part of that group where justice was denied.

And you know, we can go through different kinds of lawsuits that have been fought for or litigation or actions that have been brought forward, and, as my colleague from Nutana talked about, some of these are very, very major. So we have some questions about that.

So I want to then talk about some of these (a) to (d) — the public interest. And when I look at this I'm not sure, you know, what is the definition of public interest? Clearly, you know, it says:

In determining whether a costs award should be made pursuant to subsection (1), the court or the Court of Appeal may take into account one or more of the following:

(a) the public interest.

So I'm not sure if there's a definition out there of what the public interest means, and that would be one of our questions. What is the intention? The Minister of Justice does not go into detail on that term. I think it's a good term. I mean I think that we're always very interested in making sure, you know, when we think of issues, particularly when we think of residential schools, the civil rights movement that happened in the States, some of those issues that have a broader impact in our society. Clearly if class actions can have an impact and can serve to help us understand those much better, then I would think that it's a good idea that the court or the Court of Appeal take that into account.

So that's a good, a good piece of legislation. But again, as I'm saying, the weakness lies in, what is the definition of public interest? You know, we know we have that kind of definition when it comes to, for example, municipalities and how they act, their planning. There is a public interest and it's articulated whether it's environmental interest, whether it's a cultural interest, whether it's, you know, those kind of things. It's articulated what the public interest is. I'm not sure if that speaks to this, or what do they really mean by public interest?

The other one that I thought was of interest . . . I mean there's a few here, but whether the action involved a novel point of law. So what is a novel point of law? I'm not sure. I don't know what the definition of novel in this case of it than what we would look up in a dictionary and . . . unusual, or when we

think that's a novel comment. We know what it means, the noun, but not when it's used as an adjective. Novel point of law. So what does that mean? And so clearly, are there examples of what a novel point of law is? And it would have been very helpful for the minister to be more clear about what kind of things in Saskatchewan are we talking about.

And there's lots of cases that we could be making use of the courts. But you know, this is always a big debate in the House is how much are we giving up to the court to decide, when really it's up to us to decide. We've seen, since the constitution, the Supreme Court of Canada become very active in their decisions in terms of helping us decide what is the meaning, what are the implications of the constitution? Are those considered novel points of law?

And again as a lawyer, or non-lawyer I mean, that a lawyer may have much more knowledge in this area, and maybe it's a common term that they use and it's one that goes without saying what a novel point of law is. But as someone who's not practising law, what does that mean? And when I'm reading this Act, what will I take that to mean? Maybe I think a novel point of law is one thing, but it should be clear in the definitions whether that novel point of law is something that's used to extend the law. Is it one that's used to clarify a point of law? Or is it . . . You know, when I think of novel I think of something unusual or creative. When I think, that's a novel approach to solving this problem, I think of it being more creative than anything else.

The other point that I would say, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — The House now stands recessed to 7 p.m. this evening.

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

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President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. Jennifer Campeau
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Mark Docherty
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister Responsible for Immigration,
Jobs, Skills and Training
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
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Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds