



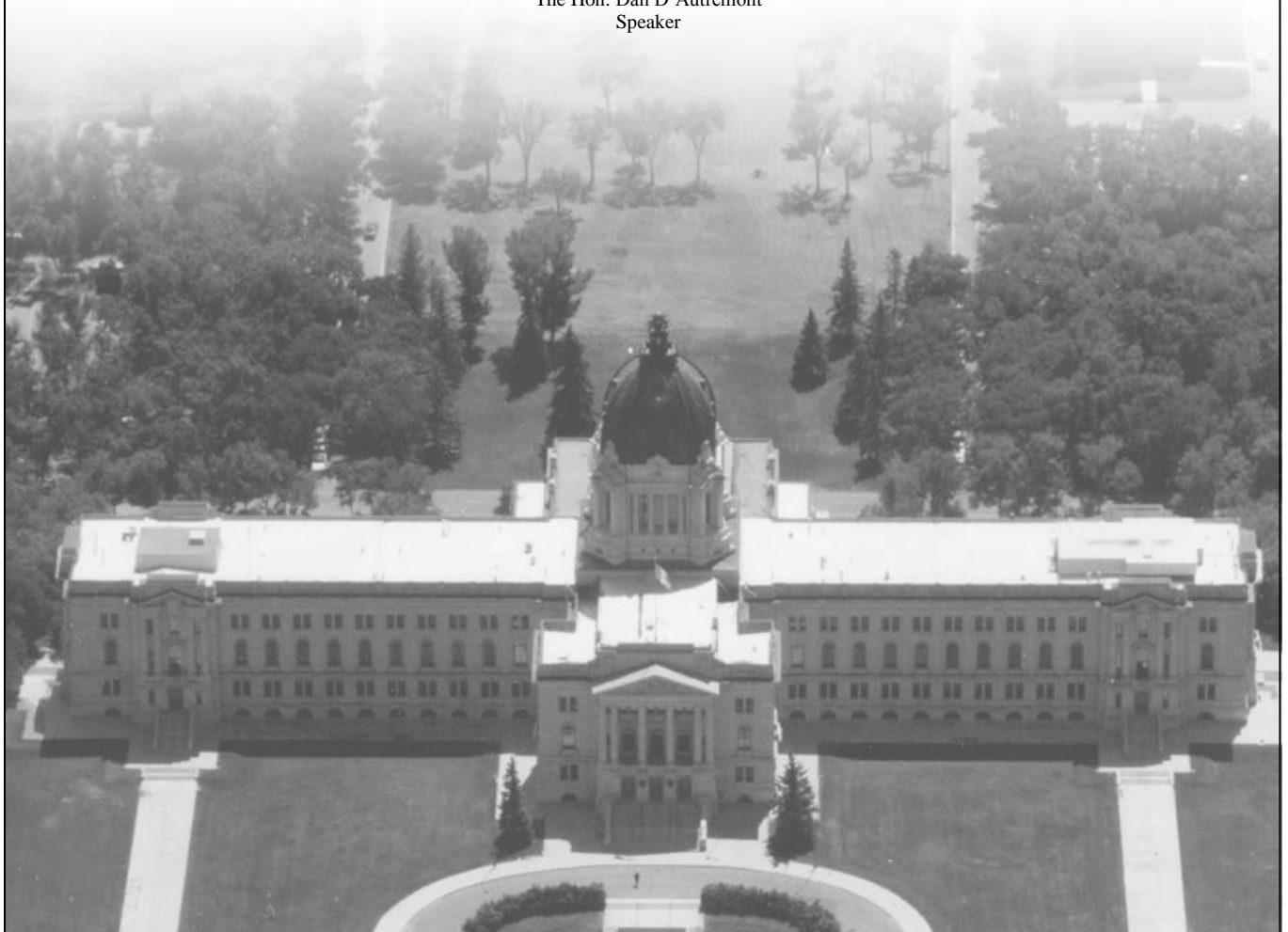
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce four members in your gallery here this afternoon. These individuals are with us today because they represent important stakeholder groups in regards to *The Wildlife Amendment Act* which will be given first reading later today. So gentlemen, if you could just please give us a wave when I call your name. First of all we have Darrell Crabbe from the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. We have Paul Legrand from the Regina Fish and Game League. We have Wayne Pepper from Nature Saskatchewan and Russ Becker from the South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association.

Mr. Speaker, *The Wildlife Amendment Act* will bring important changes to hunting legislation in Saskatchewan, and I look forward to introducing this legislation a little bit later today. Mr. Speaker, I'd again like to thank these individuals in the gallery for being with us here today, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the minister for providing the names of the folks that are here today in his opening comments. On behalf of the official opposition, we too would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

Certainly the work of the Wildlife Federation, the fish and game leagues, Nature Saskatchewan, those kinds of volunteer-based organizations and community-based organizations are central to the work of what goes on in the wildlife area in Saskatchewan. So many kudos to you and your volunteers for the work you do. And we're certainly looking forward to the amendments that were going to be tabled later today, and we'll be looking through them very carefully when the amendments come. So on behalf of the official opposition, thank you very much for joining us here today, and welcome to your legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a fine group of students from the Yorkton Regional High School, 35 of them to be exact. Their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, is just an awesome teacher, bringing attention of the Assembly and government and the legislature to his students. They are very well-informed when they come here.

With them is Grant Bjornerud. Mr. Grant Bjornerud of course a

relation to my friend and the member from Melville-Saltcoats. As well is, staying on the bus again, is Mr. Pat Rawlick. He tends to stay out there looking after the bus, but he's a good friend of mine, retired RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], so I always like to bring a mention of his name.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ostapowich is very good at getting the students to engage with political leaders or just people in general, and they're always very active and engaging. I know myself anyway, whether it's Twitter or Facebook or emails or just getting a hold of me just to know that they're able to contact their local politicians as well, and when they do that, I always give them special mention.

So I have three that I want to mention here today, Mr. Speaker. Cole Esquash is up there. Give us a wave, Cole. And he had a lot of the hard questions for me down in the gallery earlier. Isaak Genovy is the son of a very good friend of mine, Brian. So welcome, Isaak, to the Assembly. And Colin MacDonald is also the son of a good friend of mine, Ms. Sherry MacDonald, who is one of the leads at the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. So I'd ask all members to welcome these fine young people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a dear friend of mine, Mr. Carl H. Swenson. Carl is in your east gallery. And Carl is a contract lawyer for Aboriginal and northern affairs Canada. He's done a tremendous amount of work with the IAP [independent assessment process] program for the residential school issue, Mr. Speaker. He's been a lawyer since 2010, lives in Saskatoon, but grew up in the northern community of Prince Albert. And I would ask all of my colleagues in the Assembly to welcome this fine young lawyer that's up and coming, and I would recognize Mr. Carl H. Swenson today. Thank you very much.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present 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, this government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price. When explaining how the government could allow this to happen, allowing a private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, the Minister of Social Services said, 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: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions as it relates to the unacceptable danger created by that government on Dewdney Avenue. That government didn't plan properly for the heavy-haul truck traffic flow and have endangered users and residents and property up along Dewdney Avenue, and petitioners call on that government to act to get those heavy-haul trucks off of Dewdney Avenue. And the prayers read as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your 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 residence.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned residents from across Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of Creighton and Denare Beach and area. Many residents in these communities are struggling with disabilities and currently do not have the supports and services they need and deserve. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial Government of Saskatchewan to establish and build a residential and day program in the Creighton and Denare region to support the immediate and ongoing needs of the community, and in so that persons with intellectual disabilities thrive in their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good people from Creighton and Denare Beach. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. And, Mr. Speaker, the folks who've signed this petition point out that many aspects of long-term care are

deteriorating under this government, that the Government of Saskatchewan actually recognize the need for safe staffing levels to provide hands-on care to residents.

They point out that the government is failing to fix the basics in long-term care, including rejecting the further urgent request from long-term care facilities for increased and needed staffing levels. And they also point out that chronic understaffing in long-term care facilities results in unacceptable conditions, including unanswered calls for help, infrequent bathing, as we heard about two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, and a rise in physical violence among residents.

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: to cause the government to commit to the creation of safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team and to reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents in Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition condemning this government's dangerous smart meter program. In the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to take responsibility for its failure to act on readily available information about safety concerns with its smart meter program, including through the immediate resignation of the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, and a fully independent inquiry into the concerning chain of events that severely compromised the safety of Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Indian Head, Melville, and Glenavon. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising this afternoon to present a petition in support of better health care in Saskatchewan. The people who have signed this petition want to bring to the attention of the Assembly the following. We know that emergency room wait times have doubled since 2010. The government's own statistics show that patient safety is getting worse. We know that chronic short-staffing is a problem throughout our health care system and the government is spending untold millions of dollars on its lean project, including a \$40 million contract with an American consultant and flying in Japanese senseis for \$3,500 per day. So in the prayer that reads as follows, these individuals are:

Requesting 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from my constituency of Saskatoon Nutana. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Statement of Thanks

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This marks my first member's statement, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me become the elected representative for the good people of the Lloydminster constituency. A very special and heartfelt thanks goes first to my husband, Kim, and all my eight children: Nevada; Casey and his wife, Jessica; Chester, Riley, Fraser, Percy, Duke, and Ace for their support, help, inspiration, and love from the beginning of my commitment to run in the nomination and throughout the by-election. And to my own mom and dad and 11 siblings who provided help, encouragement, and prayers, they always had my back and I know I can continue to count on them as I embark on this journey.

I'd also like to thank my nomination and campaign teams. Their dedication, drive, and wise decisions led to well-run campaigns throughout.

Our success on election day is owed to all those volunteers who stepped up in whatever capacity they could. The work they did on the phones and at the doorsteps demonstrated the optimism and strength that defines the people of Saskatchewan and Lloydminster. I can't thank them enough.

I'd like to thank the other candidates for their efforts. By contesting this by-election, they showed that democracy is alive and well in this province.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the good people of the Lloydminster riding for giving me the opportunity to represent them in the legislature. I am humbled and honoured by the trust and confidence they have placed in me as their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Treaty 6 Document Comes Home

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, on October 22nd I was honoured to attend an important event for the people in the Cumberland constituency. It was a celebration of an agreement that brings an important treaty document home to Saskatchewan. At the event there were representatives from Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and the University of Saskatchewan library. Everyone was gathered

together to celebrate a new permanent loan agreement that will have the university house a treaty adhesion document from 1889. This is a true handwritten copy of the original document, and it was also signed at the time of treaty.

The Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, once collectively known as Green Lake Indians, signed the adhesion to Treaty 6 in 1889. This agreement with the Crown led to the creation of two reserves of Montreal Lake Cree Nation and the Little Red River Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, the treaties are sacred documents between First Nations and the Crown. Bringing this adhesion document back under the ownership of Montreal Lake Cree Nation is an important moment in our history. I hope that all members will join me in congratulating leaders and community members of Treaty 6 territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Awards Presented at Francophone Gala

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 8th the member from Saskatoon Greystone and myself had the opportunity to bring greetings to the Gala de la francasque 2014. The gala was organized by the francophone community and held at the Park Town Hotel in Saskatoon on November 7th, 8th, and 9th. This event brought close together 200 participants and acts as an annual convention for the francophone community in Saskatchewan. The theme this year was The Continuum of Education: Early Learning and Child Care to Post-secondary Education.

This event recognizes the work and volunteerism of people in the francophone community in Saskatchewan. Awards are handed out at the gala in five categories including young leader, promoter of the Fransaskois, agent of change, model Fransaskois, and friend of the Fransaskois.

Mr. Speaker, this year Dr. Wilfrid Denis was honoured by being awarded membership in the Company of One Hundred Associates. The company is a national organization which recognizes extraordinary Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of the Canadian francophone. Dr. Denis joins a handful of well-respected francophones from Saskatchewan to receive this honour.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating all the award recipients in the francophone community on another successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Good Wishes for Hockey Hero

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House to bring attention to two things: the unfortunate poor health of a former Saskatoon west side boy, and the heartwarming

campaign by students of that resident's alma mater.

I'm speaking of course about Gordie Howe. Unfortunately, Mr. Hockey is recovering from a stroke and is with his family in Texas, who have told the media that he is not doing well.

Gordie Howe's career in the NHL [National Hockey League] spanned four decades and even after all these years he is still right near the top of the scoring statistics. He is still third in career points and second in career goals, only bested by Wayne Gretzky.

Gordie Howe went to King George School in my constituency when he was a boy and learned to play hockey in the neighbourhood rinks. The current students of King George School have come together to send get well cards down to Gordie Howe and his family.

Dustin Millar, who teaches at King George and also coaches in the Kinsmen Hockey League, has organized a gift of two KHL [Kinsmen Hockey League] jerseys with Mr. Hockey's famous no. 9. I hope that all members will join me in wishing Gordie Howe and his family all the best in this difficult time, and we'll also recognize the students and staff at King George for their thoughtful and caring actions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Habitat for Humanity Build in Weyburn

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform members about a Habitat for Humanity home dedication that took place in Weyburn on November 14th. Not only is this Weyburn's first Habitat build, but it's also a celebration of another Saskatchewan family achieving their dream of home ownership. And, Mr. Speaker, I know it's extra special for the build committee that new homeowners, Angie and her children Teagan and Stuey, are in before Christmas.

As we all know, a house is more than bricks and mortar. It's a place to come home to at the end of the day, a place to be with family and friends. However, the cost of building new homes has increased and some families need assistance to find that safe place to live. Mr. Speaker, we want to help move Saskatchewan families forward. That's why we've contributed \$65,000 towards this home. It's one example of how we're facilitating home ownership opportunities for Saskatchewan families.

In the 2014-15 budget, the government committed an additional \$750,000 to help build 12 new Habitat for Humanity homes throughout Saskatchewan. That brings this government's commitment to Habitat to \$7.85 million since March of 2009. We now provide \$65,000 per home in funding, an increase of 50,000 per home which was provided up to March of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, partnerships are essential if we're going to continue this momentum, and I'm pleased that the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation and Prairie Sky Co-op supported this project, as well as many numerous fundraising donations from businesses and organizations. Together we are working to keep Saskatchewan strong. So I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating Habitat for Humanity on their first build in

Weyburn. Thank you very much.

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

Regina Sikh Community Hosts Supper Night

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This past Saturday I had the honour and privilege of attending the Sikh Society of Regina supper night. This very successful event was held at the Queensbury Centre here in Regina. Over 350 people had the chance to enjoy delicious food and take in the great cultural and music events.

Some highlights of the evening include performance by local Punjabi singers and local Bollywood band called Konfused Karma and the DJ [disc jockey] V2. This event was also a great opportunity for members of the Regina Sikh community to gather and celebrate their shared religion, culture, and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, as Saskatchewan population has grown, so too has our province's Sikh community. Some long-time Sikh residents of Regina estimated that the city's Sikh population has grown from 25 to 35 families in the 1970s to more than 300 families today. The growing Sikh community in Saskatchewan is actively adding to Saskatchewan's proud tradition of multiculturalism and helping Saskatchewan live up to our motto, "from many peoples, strength."

I would like to thank the members of the Regina Sikh community who have made me feel so welcome by inviting me into their homes, to their temple, and to this wonderful dinner. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to congratulate the Sikh community in Regina for hosting such a successful event, and thank them for their many contributions to this province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Small Business Receives Entrepreneurial Resiliency Award

Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on October 23rd, Scott Hodson, the president and the CEO [chief executive officer] of Superior Cabinets, accepted the first ever Business Development Bank of Canada's Entrepreneurial Resiliency Award. The award was handed out at the BDC's [Business Development Bank of Canada] small-business lunch held right here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, Superior Cabinets was selected by BDC and the Turnaround Management Association as the winner of this award for emerging stronger from a 2009 slowdown, thereby marking a remarkable business turnaround.

After experiencing this slowdown, Superior Cabinets decided to go back to the basics. As the MLA for Moose Jaw North and myself witnessed during a recent tour, this recovery included new strategies, new capital investments, and the fostering of a strong team environment. And the results are impressive and they're important. As Scott Hodson stated, 2012 was a good year. 2013 was the best year in the history of the company, and

2014 is going to be better than 2013.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, small businesses are the heart and soul of our provincial economy. We are so fortunate to have a lot of dedicated and hard-working entrepreneurs right here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Superior Cabinets on winning the Entrepreneurial Resiliency Award and in wishing this Saskatchewan company every future success.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Patient Care and the Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Only 1 out of every 10 nurses in our province say they have seen any improvement to patient safety as a result of lean. The rest, Mr. Speaker, 9 out of 10, either say they haven't seen any improvement as a result of lean or it has actually made things worse. Almost a third of nurses, Mr. Speaker, say lean has actually made patient safety worse. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier: how can he explain this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government.

Mr. Speaker, certainly as we embark upon lean within Saskatchewan's health care system, we are seeing early, positive results in terms of improvements that have been made within the system, Mr. Speaker. But we know that we have over 40,000 employees. Not every one of them will have been involved in lean, will have been involved in a lean project.

But I can share, Mr. Speaker, for example in Prairie North Health Region prior to undergoing a lean event, there was missing information on 84 per cent of medications that were ordered, Mr. Speaker. Eighty-four per cent of times were missing information from the patient when medication was ordered. Through a mistake-proofing event, that number has been reduced down to zero, Mr. Speaker. For those patients, that means improved quality. It removes errors and the chance of an error for a patient that could have detrimental effects for that patient.

Mr. Speaker, that's just one example in Prairie North Health Region, but there are many more examples that I would be pleased to share with the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister just dismisses the fact that only 1 out of 10 nurses say lean has improved patient safety here in the province. That's incredibly worrying.

The government's own statistics show that there were 195 critical incidents in our hospitals and care facilities last year, the

highest ever recorded in a single year. And that fits, Mr. Speaker, with what the Health Quality Council survey data shows. There has been an increase, Mr. Speaker, in the number of hospital patients that report suffering a medical error, Mr. Speaker. And they can heckle, they can try to dismiss this, but these are the own numbers reported by the Ministry of Health.

So nurses are saying, Mr. Speaker, that patient safety is getting worse. The Ministry of Health annual report shows that patient safety is getting worse, and patients themselves, Mr. Speaker, are reporting that patient safety is getting worse.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier: how can he dismiss these concerns, dismiss what nurses are seeing, dismiss what the Ministry of Health is saying, dismiss what patients themselves are saying, Mr. Speaker, that patient safety is getting worse?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I will take that question on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, we certainly know through literature reviews that have taken place all across health systems in North America that it's very likely that errors and patient safety issues and critical incidences are in fact under-reported within the health care system, Mr. Speaker. We have embarked upon some improvement work. For example, Saskatoon Health Region, in one of their hospitals, is piloting a stop-the-line safety alert system where any person in that hospital — whether they be staff, a patient, a family member, Mr. Speaker, a member of the general public — can call one phone number to report an issue that may be related to patient safety or to staff safety or even safety issues to the general public.

We're not shying away from this issue. We know that there is far too much harm done within the system to our patients, and that's why we need to learn best practices from organizations that have seen success using lean methodology and other tools to improve the services that we provide to our patients and decrease the errors that are caused within the health care system.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's a convenient answer for the minister to say that they're now reporting critical incidents, Mr. Speaker. But it's SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], when they surveyed the members, Mr. Speaker, 1 out of 10 say that lean is actually improving patient safety.

When the Health Quality Council surveys patients, Mr. Speaker, and they say that patient safety is actually getting worse, those are numbers coming from nurses, coming from patients. And they tell the true and accurate story of what's happening under this government's leadership, notwithstanding the spin and the rhetoric we see from this minister, Mr. Speaker, and notwithstanding the spin that we see from the minister's lean go-team. All indications are that patient safety is actually getting worse, and that John Black's version of lean is at least partially responsible.

But it's not just patient safety that's getting worse, Mr. Speaker,

as a result of John Black's version of lean. The time available for direct patient care is also declining. Get this — just 1 out of every 10 nurses in our province say that lean has improved the time available for direct patient care. Just 1 out of 10, Mr. Speaker. Meanwhile 4 out of 10 nurses say that the time available for patients has actually gotten worse as a result of John Black's version of lean.

My question, Mr. Speaker, for the Premier: how is any of this acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I will be answering on behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker. Well get this — there's 2,400 more nurses working in Saskatchewan compared to when the members opposite were the government. Mr. Speaker, we're seeing, Mr. Speaker, not only are we seeing improved services to patients that we provide through lean and other tools, including having more front-line staff, but it is also saving us money.

For example, prior to using lean, Mr. Speaker, at Saskatoon City Hospital, there was a problem when it came to notifying when a patient was discharged because we weren't at that time notifying the diet clerk when a patient had been discharged, Mr. Speaker, which meant that at Saskatoon City Hospital a food tray was being prepared for patients that had already been discharged. Since we've implemented lean and changed that process, City Hospital alone, with one small change, will save \$42,000 a year by not serving food to patients that no longer are in the system. That's just one example of where we're saving money.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this minister can dismiss and keep his head in the sand, but when nurses are saying that patient safety is getting worse, when patients through the Health Quality Council are saying that patient safety is getting worse, Mr. Speaker, this minister ought to take note and this government ought to take note.

Patient safety, Mr. Speaker, and direct available time for patient care are absolutely critical to high quality of health care. And both of these, patient safety and the time available for patient care, are getting worse under this government. And it ought to be a huge wake-up call for each and every member over there.

John Black's version of lean is not helping, Mr. Speaker. In fact it is hurting patient care and the quality of health care here in Saskatchewan. Nearly 50 per cent of nurses say John Black's version of lean has made their workload and their stress levels worse. Mr. Speaker, 50 per cent. And just 8 per cent, only 8 per cent, Mr. Speaker, say lean has improved their workload. That is scathing, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Premier: how much of this does he need to hear, how much does he need to hear before he realizes that John Black's version of lean is having disastrous consequences for the front lines of health care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, what we have embarked upon in this province is to embed lean throughout the entire health care system, Mr. Speaker. We are learning from other organizations that have had some tremendous results in a fairly short amount of time, Mr. Speaker. And I can again point to other examples of how lean has improved patient care, how it will improve patient outcomes, how it will drive efficiencies within the system.

But, Mr. Speaker, the point is, Mr. Speaker, when the members opposite were confronted with problems in the health care system . . . For example, it wasn't that long ago when an elective MRI [magnetic resonance imaging], patients waited up to 22 months for an elective MRI. And the reaction from the members opposite, and the reaction from the member from Lakeview when he was the Minister of Health was, this is just the way it is in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we take a different view on this side: that that's not the way it has to be, that we can improve the system in this province, Mr. Speaker. And that's what we are dedicated to do on behalf of the people of this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can choose to ignore critical incidents that are being reported, the highest ever on record. He can choose to ignore the nurses that come forward and say that lean, John Black's lean is actually hurting patient care. He can refuse to listen to the concerns that come forward from all sorts of people throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

But what he should be doing is listening to those on the front line and not simply regurgitating the speaking notes from his lean go-team. That's what this minister should be doing. Nearly 60 per cent of nurses, nearly 60 per cent of nurses say morale and engagement have plummeted as a result of John Black's lean, and I guess it's no surprise Mr. Speaker, for someone who is known to tattle on anyone who would question his authority and his direction.

And that fits, fits completely with the government's own survey of physicians and front-line health care workers who say that morale and engagement is incredibly low. And it's clear for anyone who's actually listening to those on the front lines, the vast majority of front-line workers — of nurses, of doctors — do not think that their concerns are listened to, Mr. Speaker, and they do not feel as though their opinions matter in any way. And that's under this government's lean pet project through John Black. That's a huge problem.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier: instead of flying in Japanese senseis at \$3,500 a day, instead of flying in the American consultant at \$40 million a day, why doesn't this government properly listen and properly engage with those on the front lines of health care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again, Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I will

take that question on behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I receive a report on the critical incidents within the system and, Mr. Speaker, they're troubling. That is why we are dedicated to improving patient safety, staff safety, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're working to eliminate waste and errors in the system.

For example, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite think that this is acceptable pre-lean, then I would hope that they would stand up and say that this is acceptable. But prior to implementing lean, Mr. Speaker, very severe patients in Sunrise Health Region would wait 24 hours before seeing mental health services. We have reduced that time by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, for very severe mental health cases, Mr. Speaker. That is why we're doing this: to improve the care that we're providing, Mr. Speaker, because we take the attitude on this side of the House that good enough is just not good enough for the people of this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's not acceptable, and that is why this government needs to pay attention and needs to change course. Mr. Speaker, when the government's very own statistics through the Ministry of Health show a record number of critical incidents, when the Health Quality's numbers about reports from patients show more errors, Mr. Speaker, when we have nurses showing that only 1 out of 10 show that lean has improved patient care, that ought to be concerning.

That minister ought to care. That government ought to pay attention and ought to change course, Mr. Speaker. But we see the opposite. We see them doubling down on John Black's version of lean, all at a time when all the indicators show that the quality of health care, the safety of health care is going in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. What this government needs to do is fire John Black. My question to the Premier: when will John Black be fired?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I'll be answering the question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, prior to making changes to the way that we operate by looking at best practices from some very high-performing organizations that deliver health care and other organizations, Mr. Speaker, in Five Hills Health Region in the mental health unit they had an average, a record of 17 medication errors a year, Mr. Speaker. Now if the members opposite are okay with that, that 17 medication errors a year is okay, that we can live with that kind of record in this province, then that is a position that they should be able to stand on. But, Mr. Speaker, this side of the House, we think that that is unacceptable. And that's why we've changed processes, due to what we've learned from lean, and reduced that from 17 per year to, last year, one per year. And one is still too many.

Mr. Speaker, in the Estevan hospital there was only 20 per cent of the time where patients that were being discharged were

given a blood clot screening tool. Now that's 100 per cent, and we should be doing that in every hospital, Mr. Speaker.

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

Long-Term Care for Seniors

Ms. Chartier: — This summer the opposition exposed the case of Roy Armstrong, a 95-year-old veteran with three types of cancer, two heart attacks, and 10 ambulance trips to the hospital in the last year. This government said Mr. Armstrong was too fit to qualify for a seniors' care placement, and a high-ranking senior health administrator said the threshold for admission to long-term care is "quite high."

If three types of cancer, two heart attacks, and 10 ambulance trips to the hospital aren't enough to meet the threshold to qualify for care, then my question to the Health minister is this: exactly how high is that threshold?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not quite as high as it once was before 100 new beds were added to the city of Saskatoon, which the members opposite opposed every single step of the way, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, certainly there is an assessment process throughout the entire health care system. Families have the opportunity to appeal that assessment, Mr. Speaker. In the case that the member raised, my understanding is that they did appeal that process. They were successful and placement was found.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the number of seniors that are qualifying for long-term care placement is dropping. In 2011, 655 seniors qualified for long-term care placement; last year just 435 qualified. So far this year, just 398 have qualified. To the minister: is this significant decline because the thresholds are so much higher?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well certainly we have been working over the last number of years to ensure that, for as much as possible, seniors have an opportunity to live in their home or in other types of locations more appropriately in the community. Certainly through Home First/Quick Response we're seeing a 5 per cent increase in the number of people that are referred into home care which will hopefully delay placement into long-term care.

But, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite should know this. Certainly they can only ask a couple of members opposite when they were the Government of Saskatchewan, that under their watch 19 long-term care facilities closed in this province. They know how many beds that took out of the system, Mr. Speaker. We've had a long way to go in terms of not only replacing those beds but replacing existing facilities that were aging and needed to be replaced, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've invested over \$1

billion in health capital, much of that into long-term care, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's hard to fix a problem if you don't even recognize there's one staring you in the face. Here's what the recently terminated CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region said: "If we had . . ." Maybe the members opposite should listen to this, Mr. Speaker. "If we had more long-term care as an . . .

The Speaker: — It's the middle of the week, and it seems members are quite excited. I wonder if we could have it a little bit lower tone so we can hear the questions and the answers. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Here's what the recently terminated CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region said:

If we had more long-term care as an option or more community resources as well, then perhaps more people would be able to access that care. But right now we're really rationing the resources that we've got.

We know that rationing of care meant that a 95-year-old veteran with three types of cancer, two heart attacks, and 10 trips to the hospital by ambulance had to fight for a placement in a care facility. To the Minister: is that rationing of care also behind the 35 per cent drop in the number of seniors that are qualifying for long-term care placements?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly a recent survey of RHAs [regional health authority] indicates that about, it's about 27-day wait for people to get in long-term care in terms of being on the wait-list. That is certainly, Mr. Speaker, a little bit lower than it was just a couple of years ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about rationing care, what do you think 19 long-term care beds, long-term care facilities being closed did to rationing care when it comes to long-term care at a time when the population in this province, and others, was increasing, Mr. Speaker? That is why, Mr. Speaker, this government has . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I had asked members to tone it down a little, and I expect that to happen. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, that is why under this government we have invested over \$1 billion in health capital, much of that into long-term care, including, Mr. Speaker, 24 additional beds in the Pineview Terrace in Prince Albert, which opened of June of this year; 100 beds at Samaritan Place, Mr. Speaker; as well as, Mr. Speaker, planning dollars for La Ronge which is, Mr. Speaker, going to be an important project; as well as, Mr. Speaker, replacement dollars, \$1 million, to plan for the replacement here in the city of Regina.

We're not only building long-term care facilities, building additional bed capacity in the system, Mr. Speaker, today, but also planning for into the future.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The recently terminated CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region also said this:

Do we have enough resources for long-term care in our health region? I would say the answer is no. There are lots of unmet needs in this province, so we do not have adequate resources and programs to meet the needs of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, this government has no end of cash for its toxic American lean consultant, no end of cash for that pet project. Yet it has neglected seniors' care so badly that the thresholds to get into care are now so high that most seniors just don't qualify. To the minister: how can he possibly justify these mixed-up priorities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the member will know, and I've mentioned already, 100 beds at Samaritan Place long-term care facility as well as 63 additional beds at Oliver Lodge increased the capacity in Saskatoon, just in the city of Saskatoon alone by 163 beds under this government, Mr. Speaker. I've also mentioned the 24 beds at Pineview, Mr. Speaker, in Prince Albert as well as the 15 long-term care facilities that we're building all across this province, Mr. Speaker.

If you think about it, in about seven years time as government, Mr. Speaker, we have replaced about 10 per cent of the long-term care facilities in this province, which is in stark contrast, Mr. Speaker, the 15 facilities on this side of the House comparison to the 19 facilities that closed under that government, Mr. Speaker, nearly 1,500 long-term care beds that were cut under the members opposite.

[14:15]

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

Food Bank Usage and Social Programs

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Social Services minister. How can she possibly explain that food bank usage in our province has jumped 20 per cent over the last year?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we're going to work with the community-based organizations on examining why those numbers have increased. Of course we don't want to see increased usage in food bank usage. We have the second-lowest poverty rate in Canada, Mr. Speaker, which is very positive, and we are excited about that for our province. But we know that more work needs to be done, and that is why we are embarking on a poverty strategy, working with the stakeholders

in our communities. And we're sure that there will be a lot of good recommendations that come out of that report.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, many of the organizations that serve our province's most vulnerable are struggling. We saw that SWITCH [student wellness initiative toward community health] in Saskatoon is having to cut back its hours. And now we're hearing that in Prince Albert the food bank will be shutting down its hot meal program because of a significant lack of capacity.

To the minister: when the needs are increasing so much, how can she defend the fact that services are being cut for our province's most vulnerable?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we have doubled the number of emergency shelters that are available within our province as well as increased the amount of money that we give to emergency shelters. We have invested \$475 million to develop over 8,300 units across our province.

What was the NDP [New Democratic Party] record, by the way, on housing, Mr. Speaker? Well from, let me see, from 1990 to 2007 they only increased shelter allowances twice, Mr. Speaker. We have increased it a number of times. Mr. Speaker, we have increased the amount of money that we put into social services by a substantial amount. The Social Services budget has been increased by 54 per cent.

We are seeing some positive results. We are now the second lowest incident of poverty within Canada. However, Mr. Speaker, we know that more work needs to be done. We're going to work with the community-based organizations, but we have a number of initiatives that we've already undertaken. And we're seeing some positive results.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, these are the facts that are happening in Saskatchewan today. We know that food bank usage has jumped by 20 per cent in this province in the last year. And we know that the manager of the Prince Albert Food Bank says that food bank usage in that city has nearly doubled — doubled in the last two years. And we know that almost half the people served by the P.A. [Prince Albert] Food Bank are children.

The rising cost of living is putting a squeeze on too many families here in Saskatchewan, but this government has untold millions for American lean consultants and Japanese senseis, yet it sits on its hands when organizations that serve our most vulnerable people are forced to cut back on important services, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: how can she justify such misplaced priorities?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — So I suppose the member opposite is suggesting that increasing the Social Services budget by 54 per

cent is a misplaced priority. Or is he suggesting by increasing the funding for housing by over 100 per cent a misplaced priority? Is increasing the funding for child and family services provided to our most vulnerable children a misplaced priority? Obviously, because when he sat in cabinet he didn't prioritize any of those initiatives. We have increased those budgets year over year over year, Mr. Speaker.

And going to the food bank, Mr. Speaker, the quote from Steve Compton in response to the report on food bank usage, he said, and I quote, "We've actually seen a decrease and, you know, a few months has gone by. We're encouraged that that points to employment opportunities and some relief in vacancy rates."

Mr. Speaker, he recognizes more work needs to be done, but he also recognizes that work is being done.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 161 — *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune*

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister for the Environment has moved first reading of Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014*. 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 the bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I will move second reading of *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act, 2014*.

The Family Farm Credit Act needs to be repealed. This Act has long since become redundant. *The Family Farm Credit Act* was enacted in February of 1979. Its purpose was to make long-term credit available for the establishment and development of family farms. It also provided the basis for the intergenerational

transfer of farms. At the time the Act enabled Co-operative Trust Company of Canada or CTCC to make loans to farmers. It also enabled CTCC to issue securities and raise money to lend to farmers. Furthermore the Ministry of Finance was able to purchase and guarantee those securities under this Act.

In April 2012 and December 2013, the Ministry of Finance indicated that they were not aware of any present securities under this Act. Nor were they aware of any securities purchased by the Minister of Finance in recent years under this Act. During our review of this Act, agencies were consulted and no issues were identified. The CTCC was the only lending institution that was an approved agency under this Act. They have since restructured into Concentra Trust and Concentra Financial. No other associated agencies exist under this Act, and loan guarantees have not been offered for many years.

Initially the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development administered this Act. This was followed by a period when Consumer and Commercial Affairs took responsibility for it. Following that, the Ministry of Justice was responsible for *The Family Farm Credit Act*, and finally the Act was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Also in 1994 the last outstanding payments under this Act came due. Mr. Speaker, there are no outstanding actions on file in regards to this Act. There are no outstanding securities or guarantees remaining under this Act. The programming under this Act is no longer offered, and all of the payments under this Act have come due and have been settled.

Financing options are now available to producers through regular lending institutions. These include banks, credit unions, and Farm Credit Canada. Therefore any action regarding this Act should have no effect on the agricultural community in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I propose that this redundant Act be repealed from the records of the legislature. As far as is possible, records should be kept clear of redundancies. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*, 2014, be read a second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture the second reading of Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*. 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 to stand on behalf of the opposition to give the initial comments on this particular bill, *The Family Farm Credit Act*, Mr. Speaker. And according to the notes that we have viewed, Mr. Speaker, this Act was established in 1979, and its primary function at the time was to . . . It allowed the government . . . Or *The Family Farm Credit Act* empowered the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada to lend money to farm families. And I understand that the total amount at the time was not more than \$25,000.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at this particular Act, we see that all the bills have been paid, so to speak, and there has been no outstanding loans and there certainly hasn't been any new loans

that have been given under this particular Act. And I understand, Mr. Speaker, that, at the time, this particular family farm credit Act was a tool that many families took advantage of. And over time, Mr. Speaker, obviously you want to make sure you keep up with the times with the appropriate players involved, and in this instance, as the minister spoke about, having the regular institutions of today, whether it be a bank or whether it be a credit union, take over this particular role, Mr. Speaker. And certainly we're seeing evidence of that. There are many family farms and many corporations that operate farms in the province now go through the regular process of borrowing money from either the banks that are in the province, and of course the credit unions as well. I understand that in the previous time that Concentra Financial did actually act as a lending agency for this particular Act. I understand that they have now morphed into a different role, that Concentra Financial now simply manages the dollars from the credit union movement within Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So they don't even lend any money directly to the families that operate farms in our province.

So really every different player or aspect involved with this particular bill, whether it's the family farms that are borrowing money or Concentra that's actually lending the money, some of the players have moved on to different venues. And obviously, as I said at the outset, the family farms are primarily now going to their regular institutions to borrow their money. And whereas Concentra is no longer in a position to lend money, they're actually managing some of the monies on behalf of the credit union movement throughout the province.

So when you have an Act that is no longer necessary, Mr. Speaker — and we've obviously seen evidence of that from time to time, that this Act is no longer needed by a number of families nor the financial institutions — it's really important that we not hinder the process to do away with this Act. It's important that we recognize that the players have changed their rules and it's important to know that this Act from 1979 really does not apply. So there is no need for this particular Act to be in force.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's really important is that we would encourage the government to continue looking at improving and supporting family farms out throughout Saskatchewan in terms of assisting when the assistance is needed. One of the things that's really important is that when you look at some of the financial literacy . . . I spoke about that yesterday when it comes to the pension plans. But you look at the financial literacy needed by many of the family farms that are out there, and those that operate these farms. It's really important that we continually build on that knowledge base, to strengthen their understanding of the different avenues of borrowing, the importance of credit, and of course the importance of keeping the agricultural sector alive and vibrant throughout the whole entire province. So it's important that we understand, they understand these issues as we all should understand these issues.

And that's why it was with a bit of concern that we looked at, when we heard at the Sask Party convention there was a motion that there was an encouragement to have more financial literacy available to students. And I'm not sure where the opposition came from at the convention, the Sask Party convention, but

they were . . . One voice basically said that they were concerned that the students might be subjected to the learnings and teaching associated with our co-operatives movement or our credit union movement.

And, Mr. Speaker, we had a little smile on that one because obviously one of the most important things around the notion of understanding our finances a lot better is to ensure that we don't have biases that would be an infringement on the opportunity for people to learn more and more about the financial matters that affect their family or, in this case, the family farm.

So we shouldn't have those biases that are anti co-operative movement, that are anti credit union movement. And we see a bit of that, those issues that are surfacing with the Saskatchewan Party from time to time, Mr. Speaker. And they should embrace the credit union movement. As indicated in the bill itself, the credit union movement is very, very strong. They're very, very active in our communities. The employment attached to the credit union model is just phenomenal in the sense of all the services, the employment, and the donations they make to a central community. So the credit union movement itself is very, very strong. The co-operative movement in Saskatchewan is very, very solid in terms of benefits and support services to all of the communities that they serve.

So whether it's a credit union or whether it's a co-operative model or a co-operative store, as a good example, then we need to make sure you keep an open mind to some of these opportunities for Saskatchewan and, not like the Saskatchewan Party, have certain camps that are biased towards the co-operative movement or the credit union movements overall, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

So I think it's important that we view the Saskatchewan Party government to make sure that they don't bring some of those hindered views to this whole process when you talk about supporting the family farms, Mr. Speaker. It's really, really important that they come to the process and come to the table, when dealing with their family farms, to make sure they're not bringing any of those unneeded biases to the table. Because, Mr. Speaker, not only is the co-operative model a very solid model for many family farms and many communities that serve a lot of the family farms. They are really an important part of the equation for success in terms of making sure that there's enough resources out there and enough options for families and farm families to go find the necessary financing for some of their needs to ensure that our agricultural sector continues to build and continues to be very strong.

So it's really important, Mr. Speaker, we watch those biases by the Saskatchewan Party government, we watch very carefully how they view the movement, whether it's a co-operative movement or whether it's a credit union movement, that those options and viability or viable services not be hindered in any way, shape, or form. And that's what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that we do provide an array of services and of course an array of bank services to many of the farm families that no longer come to the family farm credit option as the bill would indicate.

So it's important, Mr. Speaker, that we look at the bill for its importance in the past, 1979. It's quite some time ago. And we obviously concur that if this particular bill was not being used anymore and that the actual books are clean in terms of all the debts being repaid and there's no more activity attached to the farm credit Act itself, that we can certainly see that there probably isn't any need to have this bill on the record.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more people that want to offer some opinions. We have a lot more people we want to consult on this particular bill. We want to see how the trends are for other institutions that are now fulfilling the role that was originally planned under *The Family Farm Credit Act* to see where the debt is going and who is borrowing. We wouldn't mind some of that information. We need to know who asked for this family farm credit Act to be de-established, so to speak. And all this information that we certainly do need to have, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue researching this bill. But certainly from our perspective at the outset, if it's simply doing away with the bill that is no longer needed to serve the purpose of giving the family farm some financial help, then obviously we want to make sure that's what the bill is all about.

So on that notion, I move that we adjourn debate on this particular bill, Bill 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*. I so move.

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

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 153

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 153** — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it's my pleasure to rise today to join in the debate on the Bill No. 153, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*. Interesting name for this type of Act, and I guess there's all kinds of statute laws. But what the minister explained in the second reading speech was that there's a number of things that are being cleaned up, that our good folks over at the legislative drafting section are going through carefully all of the statutes and just sort of refreshing some of the language and modernizing some of the terms that have been, the usage of which have become maybe archaic.

So a number of the things that we see that are being changed is instead of using words like lunatic or insane or mentally incompetent, we are now using language such as a lack of capacity or lacking capacity. We've modernized the word

facsimile to become fax, f-a-x, and certainly Mr. Speaker would remember the days when facsimiles were brand new and fresh but now we call them faxes and that's what it is. Electronic mail is now referred to as email, which has become a proper word in our lexicon, and a number of other things like that, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, in terms of the types of bills that we're seeing introduced this session, there's a lot of lacklustre policy bills, in fact I would say very few bills that deal with actual policy or the Throne Speech. This is an example of just a housekeeping type of statute where our civil servants are working hard to make sure that our laws are reflective of the current usage in language.

Interesting to note that the explanatory notes for this one bill are 141 pages long, which is a lot of trees, Mr. Speaker, when you look at printing something like this. But because the changes cover so many different bills and, for example, on page 14 of the Act there is a schedule where we are changing the word chairman to the word chairperson, and I think there's two pages, three, four pages on that schedule where we have so many statutes that refer to chairman instead of chairperson. So the modern usage of course is not to have a gender-specific term but a gender-neutral term. And these kinds of revisions again reflect sort of the evolution of our society and things that we consider to be appropriate.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, there is not much more to be said about this bill. Certainly we want to commend the work of the public servants that take care of these types of things. But in terms of policy and debate, there's very little that can be said about, well a lot of the bills in this session. But this is certainly one of them that just reflects the housekeeping activity that our public servants are responsible for. At that point I'd like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 154

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 154** — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi no 2 de 2014 modifiant le droit législatif* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Merci beaucoup, monsieur le Député . . . Je vais parler un peu de cette loi . . . or pardon. Monsieur le Président. Oui. Je m'excuse.

[Translation: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy . . . I'm going to speak a bit on this bill . . . or pardon. Mr. Speaker. Yes. I'm sorry.]

This bill is just a continuation of the previous Bill 153, but in this case we are dealing with les lois qui sont dans les deux langues officielles. Alors, il devrait être une loi séparée. [Translation: the laws that are in both official languages. Therefore, it must be a separate law.]

And that's probably the extent of French I need to try at this point, Mr. Speaker. The whole point being that this is just a carry-on of Bill 153, in which case we're dealing with particular bills that happen to have been translated into both official languages. For example, *The Administration of Estates Act, Loi de 1996 sur les coopératives* [Translation: *The Co-operatives Act, 1996*], *The Education Act*, the English version of *The Family Maintenance Act*, and then *The Non-profit Corporations Act* or *Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif*.

So there's about eight pages of different sections that have to be corrected. Extra-provincial, for example, is being corrected with a hyphen . . . to remove the hyphen. Not really high stakes here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Stop the press.

Ms. Sproule: — And yes, not exactly something we need to stop the press, as my colleague is indicating. But there you go. It's there and our good folks over at Justice are doing the good work that they've been put there to do.

And at this point I think that's it. I'll 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **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* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 155, *An Act respecting Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers and to make a consequential amendment to The Powers of Attorney Act, 2002*.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has indicated on this particular bill that what is happening here is that this legislation is part of the settlement of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in Regina versus Mercure from 1988 where the Government of Saskatchewan was obligated to prepare a number of bilingual Acts and make sure that that process of providing bilingual legislation was an ongoing process.

And so up until this time the existing legislation, which is *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*, has only been in the English language. And so what has happened here is that we have Bill No. 155 which takes that legislation from a number of years ago — 1997, in fact, and I have a clear recollection of introducing this bill when I was the minister of Justice, and at that point though the bill was only in the English language — and now what we have before us is the bilingual version.

Clearly there's some updating of the language in both French and English to reflect some of the changes in usage and changes in legislative drafting style, but the minister assures us that there's not much change or no change in the substance of the legislation. But it still raises the question of, what is the purpose of this legislation? The minister didn't take the chance I guess, 17 years later, to restate that in his comments.

And so I think what I . . . It's important that we talk a bit about why we have legislation around health care directives. And practically the legislation relates to the ability of people to make decisions about their health care while they're in a competent state to make those decisions, and then have some assurance that those decisions will be followed if they're in the situations where they're no longer capable of participating in the decisions about their health.

And there are a number of ways that we do that. One, obviously, you do it in the health care directive, which is a written document, but that document obviously appoints people to make decisions and maybe sets out some of the rationale for having a health care director. And it relates to things like consent to various procedures, refusal of consent to procedures or probably one that's, you know, sometimes the toughest which is the withdrawal of consent to treatment, and the legislation goes out and to set out in detail how some of these processes are done. And so practically what happens obviously . . . and most of the time these kinds of documents are prepared by lawyers who have read the legislation, who have developed precedents that can be used to make sure that the intent of the individual who is signing the health care directive knows what they're doing.

I think it's also important to emphasize, as the legislation does, that there's no possibility that a health care directive can be used as a way to consent to active euthanasia or assisted suicide. And that's quite clearly stated in the legislation in both, obviously, the English version and the French version.

[14:45]

So what also is set out in this legislation is the sort of pecking order, if I can put it that way, as to who makes decisions if there hasn't been a health directive appointing somebody other than the statutory list that's in the legislation. And what we have is a list in the legislation which sets out who will serve as a relative who would make a decision. And that's set out in section 15 of the legislation. And basically it says, subject to provisions in subsections (2) of section 15 and subsection (3) of section 15 there are . . . sort of an order of who will make the health care decision if the person who is requiring the treatment or is involved in the consent issue is not capable of making that decision.

And so I think sometimes it's worth talking about how this order goes. I mean practically, what this legislation says is that the first person that you would turn to is the spouse or the person with whom the person requiring treatment cohabits and has cohabited as a spouse in a relationship of some permanence. And in that definition of the spouse also includes obviously same-sex situations and any of the other related relationships.

So if there isn't a spouse or a person with whom the person is cohabited, then it becomes an adult son or daughter that makes the decision, and practically that goes into a whole number of areas. And then following that is a parent, so it flips back to the parents of the child. If there's no parent or son or daughter, it goes to the adult brother or sister. If it's not there, then it goes to the grandparent and ultimately to the adult grandchild . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, I know that the member from Indian Head always has lots of advice on various pieces of legislation when he doesn't have to get up there and speak about it himself. But practically, what we're looking at here is an important issue for people as to how decisions are made.

And so what we also have in this legislation is the recognition that this order of proxy or of this proxy decision making also has within it questions around adoptions, and basically confirms that those children are part of the process and also as it relates to sort of a half-brother or half-sister or other relationships that way. But it's important that there is clarity on all of these points, because there can be disputes that arise within the situation that's a relationship.

There is one further section around this basic decision-making process that relates to substitute health care decision making that I want to specifically talk about, and that's section 17. And the title of this section is called, "Substitute health care decision-making for members of religious orders." And I think it's important to recognize that this provision is the same provision that was in the 1997 legislation which was the original legislation, and this allows for a person who is a professed member of a religious order prescribed in the regulations.

And if we look at the regulations, there are various religious orders in the province that are prescribed. What happens in that situation is often a priest or a nun has been living within the context of a religious order pretty well their whole life, so they might be 80 or 90 years old and they've lived in that community since they were 18, 19, or 20 years old. And the old provision meant that when some decisions were needed to be made about the health care of an aging person within a religious order, that those decisions would then have to flip over to the family members in the order that I talked about earlier, without taking into account the religious order and the people who were really the family for this priest or a nun, or in that situation.

And so what happened in 1996 and '97 is that we met with the various leaders of the religious orders in Saskatchewan about this particular issue and talked about different ways that we could sort out or resolve this particular issue. And after quite a bit of discussion, we came up with the clause that we have here which says and which recognizes that the family of the priest or nun who is part of a religious order really are the other members of that religious order, and that the health care

decisions, the substitute health care decisions for those particular people, could be made in relation to that community and that they would actually step in then in the role of making these decisions.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that over the 17 years, this provision has been well received. I know that I have received comments from various of the religious leaders that they appreciate this. It hasn't had to be used that often, but it's always there as a recognition of the family, if I can put it that way, of the individuals involved. So I think it's important to see that it's here in this legislation and that it now becomes part of the bilingual legislation.

So part of what this legislation is intended to do is to provide clarity in a time when people are under great stress. And it includes obviously the individual involved and includes their family, but it also includes all of the health care providers because it can be very difficult for people when the line of authority around decisions is not clear. And I think that the legislation does meet that need of providing the clarity in the longer term, and I appreciate the fact that this particular draft has updated some of the language to be applicable in the year 2014 but that it still retains the original purpose, the original intention of the legislation from 1997.

Now there will be a few consequential amendments as a result of this legislation that are set out in this particular Act, but I know there will be another bill that's coming that will look at some more of the consequential amendments.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation. It's important legislation. It's also important that the preparation of the legislation and of the terms of the legislation are clear and that it will continue to provide clarity in the decisions that are made around the health care of Saskatchewan people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know some of my other colleagues will have some comments about this legislation because most everybody has been in some difficult family situation or situation with friends where health care decisions have to be made. And I think this will provide some clarity for that process. But at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn this debate. Thank you.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 156 — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 156, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*.

There are some changes that are required to some other legislation as the result of Bill No. 155, the bill that I was just making comments about. I know that the importance of making sure that the title of this legislation is in some other Acts is part of that, and practically what it does is it makes changes to three pieces of legislation: *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*, *The Electronic Information and Documents Act*, and also *The Health Information Protection Act*.

Those pieces of legislation, I think, and their importance, emphasize the fact that *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014* does go to change some important areas of how our decisions are made, especially at the end of life of our people. It also talks about, there's a change that's required in *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*, and I think that also then reflects that there are very specific changes that do affect these other pieces of legislation.

When the legislation is changed, there will have to be a review by the legal profession in the province to make sure that any of the documents that they use now to provide health care or as they create health care directives will reflect these new pieces of legislation. I think the way the legislation is drafted though, that it will not cause a problem to a specific health care directive, as it basically is a continuation of the legislation from before. And so when this legislation is enacted, both Bill 155 and 156, it will probably take a little while until the legislation is proclaimed, but I think it will give all of the lawyers in the province a chance to prepare that legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further comments on this legislation, so I would move that we adjourn debate. Thank you.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 157 — *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 157, *An Act to Facilitate the Donation of Certain Tissues from One Living Person to Another for Transplantation and to Facilitate the Donation, after Death, of Tissues, Bodies or Body Parts for Transplantation, Medical or*

Scientific Purposes and to make a consequential amendment to The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act. Mr. Speaker, that's quite a long title for this particular piece of legislation, but I think it's important that we look at this legislation and understand what has been the traditional use of this type of legislation in Saskatchewan.

[15:00]

I think the media recently, in commenting on this bill when it was introduced by the minister, identified the fact that one of the things that this change in legislation will do is allow for the purchase of human tissue. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a change, and it's something that we need to look at quite carefully because it does have many consequences for our community.

Now practically, as each year has gone on, we've seen the value of transplants and how they've been used in many areas to allow for people to have a better life and an extended life. And one of the big challenges in our province has been the fact that we don't end up with very many donors of tissue to use.

Now I think it's important to note that the donations are coming from people who are deceased and so it does . . . That's the primary place. This particular legislation though also deals with the gifts for transplant during life, and so any transplanting in Canada. And that's often where people will for example share a kidney with a relative or even with a complete stranger. This legislation governs those kinds of gifts as well and sets out the rules.

But, Mr. Speaker, this area is quite an interesting one, and one of the discussions that comes is, why do so few people opt on their driver's licence or health card or some other place to not allow for the transplant or the use of some of their body tissues for transplant? So what we have in Saskatchewan is a situation where you sign a card or you put a sticker or you let your family members know that that's what you want. But many of us don't like to think about it, so we just sort of push it away. I know that I have my personal card signed and ready for whatever part of my body might be useful when I'm no longer needing it, but for many people this is a very difficult subject.

In one jurisdiction that I know of in the world, they have made a decision for the public, and that's in the country of Spain. In Spain they basically say if a person is killed in an accident or is in a situation where it's not clear what their intention is about the use of their body, the rule is that a transplant of some of their body tissue can take place unless they have specifically opted not to allow that.

And we have some of that kind of discussion happening in Canada. I know in Ontario they're debating whether there should be an opt-in process or an opt-out-of process. In Saskatchewan we have an opt-in. So if you want to allow for transplant of part of your body after your death, you specifically opt in to do that. But as I say, in Spain they have an opt-out policy which says everybody's body at death is subject to harvesting of body parts unless you state otherwise. And what that means is they have many more parts of bodies available for transplantation than most other countries in the world. And it becomes an interesting discussion about that issue.

If anybody who has had somebody in their family waiting for a transplant, it sometimes changes your mind around whether we should have our system or whether we should have a system like Spain because it can be a long, difficult wait for somebody to get a proper match for a kidney for example, if they've got kidney disease. And so I think that this particular legislation, there was an opportunity to look at that particular issue, but the ministers opted not to go ahead with that type of a provision.

Now what this legislation did do though was open up the possibility for the purchase of body parts from outside of the province for use in Saskatchewan. And the example given by the minister relates to the transplantation of corneas, of part of your eye. And there are people in our province who are waiting for corneal transplants that have been waiting a long time. And the sense is that this legislation allowing for that purchase may increase the options for these corneal transplants.

And this once again becomes a difficult issue because in some ways it's a bit of a thin, you know, edge of the wedge as it relates to all kinds of body parts. Now the question comes, where would these corneas be purchased? And you could look at that very narrow issue. But a bigger issue relates to the world market for human body parts for use in transplantation. We know that there's what I suppose what we'd call a black market where people can go to some countries in the world and purchase a kidney or purchase whatever kind of part they would need and have the surgery done in that country where the donor, and usually it's a live donor, would transfer, or would be paid a specific sum.

We don't allow that type of thing to happen in Canada or in Saskatchewan right now. But the question becomes, well if we allow for the purchase of corneas, will we in a few years allow for purchase of another particular type of tissue, and will this in fact expand and create some kind of a market there?

I know that some of us who are a little older will remember a book by the author Robin Cook called *Coma*, and *Coma* was subsequently made into a movie. But it was about, a fictional account of a hospital in Boston where a young medical student starting asking questions about where certain transplant tissues came from that were being used in the hospital. And this young person and some of her friends eventually found out that there were young, healthy people who were brain dead but who had been kept alive so that their body parts could be harvested.

So it's kind of a gruesome story in one way but it relates, and relates to this whole question about, when various body parts for transplantation are for sale, where do they come from? What kinds of methods are used? And that particular book by Robin Cook raised many ethical questions about the sale of tissues for transplantation.

Now you'll note that our bill states very clearly that it's about the donation of certain tissues, and so it's about a gift or about a sharing that way. But when we put into this legislation the provision that allows for the sale or purchase of tissues, we start opening that door. Now the particular section in this bill that relates to this is section 17, and I think I'll read it for us.

Subject to the regulations, no person shall buy, sell or otherwise deal in, directly or indirectly, for a valuable

consideration, any tissue for a transplant, or any body or part of a body other than blood or a blood constituent, for the purposes of transplant, medical education or scientific research.

So on the face of that section 17, it allows for the buying and selling of blood or plasma but subject to the regulation. So then you have to go and look, well are there any regulations here that will change this particular prohibition against the buying, selling, or otherwise dealing in tissue for a transplant or research? And in fact when you go to the regulations, section 22 and you look at regulation (f), so it's section 22(f) and it states:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations:

(f) for the purposes of section 17:

(i) prescribing exemptions from the prohibition against the purchase, sale or other dealings with respect to:

(A) tissue; and

(B) bodies or parts of bodies.

And then (ii) of that (f) is:

(ii) prescribing persons or classes of persons that are exempt from that section and prescribing any terms and conditions to which the exemption may be subject; and

(iii) prescribing circumstances of a purchase, sale or other dealing with respect to tissue, bodies or parts of bodies that make the purchase, sale or other dealing exempt from that section.

So what we have in section 17 combined together with the regulatory power, we have the right, the cabinet has the right to make decisions around the buying, selling, and dealing in body parts other than blood and blood plasma or blood constituents.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious choice that is being brought forward by the minister. He gives the example of the corneas as why they're wanting to do this but the power . . . It doesn't state here and he didn't make an amendment to section 17 that would just say other than blood or a blood constituent or a cornea. He goes on to give the power to the cabinet in regulation to allow for the purchase or sale of any part of a human body for the purposes of transplant or for medical education or for scientific research.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have a little bit of information from the minister in the second reading speech around what the intentions are as it relates to this legislation, but we don't have very much detail about how some of these things will be done. And I think if you look at what the Minister of Health has said on November 17th, it says basically that:

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.

[15:15]

That's what's stated. Then it goes on to explain some of the things that are going to happen, and then there's this emphasis on the cornea. But the power that's given in this particular legislation, that we as the legislators are going to give to the cabinet, is to set up a process of buying, selling, or otherwise dealing directly or indirectly for a valuable consideration any tissue for a transplant or any body or part of a body other than a blood or blood constituent for the purpose of transplant, medical education, and scientific research.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we know and understand what the limits are going to be on this, and how, if there are going to be changes, how the decisions will be made. As we know now, regulatory consultation is quite limited. We usually don't actually even know about regulations that are coming until the cabinet's made a decision and it's showed up in the community.

I think that in this particular area it would be very helpful if the Minister of Health or the Premier or someone would say how decisions will be made to expand this power within our province because it is an area where there can be some difficulties. It is an area where we want to protect our citizens, both from being the source of sale of tissue, but also if tissues are purchased around the world and brought back to Saskatchewan, what are the standards? How are they going to be . . . Who is going to set those standards? What kind of public discussion are we going to have about that?

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that the legislation gives more power clearly to the minister, to the Premier, to the cabinet. And I think what we will need to know is how they intend to use this power in a way that will protect the public when basically it's going to be dealt with by regulations.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that sometimes in areas like this where there are some strong ethical questions, where there are issues that are of concern to the whole community, that it may be better that we actually spell out in legislation what we're doing rather than having it dealt with in regulation. And so I think that as this bill proceeds through the legislature, we'll all need to ask some very specific questions about how the legislation is going to be used, how the decisions are going to be made, how this expanded, almost open power about the purchase and sale of tissue and body, the human body, will be governed.

It may be the type of legislation which should have included right in the Act itself some kind of ethics board or an ethical system. I mean a system for making some of these decisions. And I'm not totally certain what some of the solutions are, but I think that there are some very direct questions about this and we can't take it lightly that we have this type of legislation being brought forward in Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that that specific question about this expansion of the power to buy and sell or deal in tissue and

human body parts is the core of what changes are being made here. It goes away from the concept of donation to maybe the dealing or market for certain kinds of things, and that's one that I think troubles all of us.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments today other than to raise these alerts and ask that all of us be diligent in following what this legislation may and can do in the province of Saskatchewan. At this point I will move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 158

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 158** — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To join in debate on Bill No. 158, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*. And I know pension plans and this one for instance that we're looking at was established I believe in May of 1986, giving individuals out there, residents of this province an opportunity to save some dollars for their pension, retirement, and have an opportunity . . . We know we have a government pension. Many organizations have a pension plan. I know the government one, our government employees have a pension plan. A lot of different ones belong to certain plans. Some of the big corporations have certain pension plans. Some individuals put away RRSPs [registered retirement savings plan] and they do what they can. Some can afford to it, some can't because of the cost of living. There might be different reasons.

But the idea of a retirement plan is to make sure that you hope you have enough put away to, you know, have an opportunity to live, you know, with the respect and dignity that most people want. And this plan is an opportunity for individuals who don't belong to a government pension plan or an organization, giving them an opportunity to save some dollars and put away for their retirement so the day when they need those dollars, they're there.

I guess like I've said, some people have an opportunity, and their position, and where they are they can put a little bit away and put into a plan that they want to be . . . It's a plan that's managed by I guess trustees. It's put in place to manage those. And I think this plan currently, it has about \$401 million in it that, you know . . . And there is a process that explains those dollars are protected and how those dollars are protected. You know, you have trustees in there. You make sure that you have

trustees, trustees in there that take care of this money, and they provide, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they provide for the opportunity to save for the day when they need those dollars.

And they're making some changes in here, and they're repealing some of them. And in May of last year, 2013, they came forward, and I don't know if government was ready or not. Or you know, did they do the homework that needed to be done to introduce the legislation and the changes that they wanted to make? They amended it in 2013. May, I believe is what the date is, if I have it right.

But they've brought forward now . . . It's being repealed. They've come in with some changes, and maybe for some reasons the homework wasn't done. They didn't do the job that they were supposed to do. But I know from our point, the members on this side of the House and the other members out there in this House have a right to go back to constituents and ask, is this kind of a plan going to work for you?

You have about 33,000 members I believe that belong to this current plan that have, like I said, about 401 million in assets. So when we go through this and, you know, you change and you bring in changes, amendments, there's some questions that need to be clarified, whether it's the critic, whether it's individual members.

You want to make sure that people's retirement are being protected, the way they're handled, and they want to be reassured. Saskatchewan residents, they work hard for their dollars. They want to make sure that whatever they put into those plans, they're protected. And government has an obligation to make sure that it goes through a process, you know, that protects those assets because those individuals didn't have a lot of money and at times don't have that opportunity, like I had said earlier.

So there have been some changes, and they're repealing some of it. They're changing some of it. They're giving some opportunities. And I just want to kind of comment a little bit about one area, and I've already talked about coming in line. And some of them might be wording changes, but some of them will come in line with other pension plans, whether it's government pensions, other pensions that are out there.

When it comes to spouse's allowance, making sure that there's a provision, from my understanding in here, that there's a provision in there to name the spouse to make sure the spouse gets opportunities, the pension, should their loved one pass away, that there's a provision in there to make sure that the couple, the married couple, the partner, the spouse, has an opportunity to those dollars that have been put in trust.

And like I've said, they want to make sure that they have access to that and that it just doesn't end up going into the government coffers and the government takes it, as there are some provisions in here where, if the government can't find someone that's . . . [inaudible] . . . has opportunity to these dollars, that then somebody might come later on and they'd say, well those dollars were mine. And if government has those, there's a provision in here I believe, from my understanding, for the minister to look at it and make a provision to say, yes those dollars are entitled to this person. This person has shown that

they have the right to those dollars, whether it be a spouse. So they don't have to prove to the Minister of Finance that that individual has a right to those retirement pension dollars that are putting into that plan.

There is a lot of different things that are in this plan. And I know when we go through our opportunity, and a lot of my colleagues have commented about it, making sure we're doing the due diligence that we're supposed to do, whether it's in committee, and I know our critic will put those questions to the minister and ask those tough questions in committee. I mean we're going through the process. We'll debate it. I know we'll do a little bit of checking on it, making sure that the changes that are being proposed, you know, who asked for them?

And there might be, you know, name changes. There might be some good changes that help Saskatchewan residents, and those individuals are members of this pension plan. Like I said, there's about 33,000 members that belong to this pension, but \$401 million in assets that trustees are looking after. But if those provisions aren't there and something should happen that those assets aren't being protected and the spouse has those, whether it's 60 per cent — and I believe that's the number — I know there's going to be some questions being asked. Sixty per cent is what they're going to give. And if I have it correctly, you know, as we go through committee and we talk with community members and we talk with people that are in the plan, I have the opportunity for those individuals to come forward and express their concern.

And like I said, sometimes this stuff, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is housecleaning. Sometimes there's some changes that need to be addressed. So we have to make sure that at the end of the day we've done the due diligence that we're supposed to do, and we will do that. So at this time, I know in committee, when it gets there, I know my colleagues have more questions and, you know, more discussions that they want to discuss on this bill. But at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 158, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as always I'm honoured to be able to rise in this Assembly and have the opportunity to speak to the bills that have been tabled by the government here for our consideration.

The bill I'm speaking about today is Bill No. 149, which is *An Act to amend The Health Administration Act*. In this case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is where the Minister of Health has told us that there is a few changes needed to be able to allow eHealth, which is a Crown corporation, to do the job that it needs to do in relation to, I guess in this case, health cards. And he reminded us all that if we got the sticker, we should be putting it on our card. And I did, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly encourage everyone else to do the same.

Just as an aside and before I forget, I'm wondering. One of the things I would love to see changed in terms of our health cards is the fact that we only have the month and year of our birth date. We don't have the day. And I don't know if you've had this problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but every time I go to my doctor, to massage or chiropractor or the pharmacy, they want to know what day of the month I was born in. And I get asked that question every time I'm engaging with health professionals.

And I'm just not sure why we don't put it on the darn card and just have it there rather than having to answer that question every time. I don't know why they need it, why they need my date of birth, the day of the month I was born in, but I don't have a problem with it being added to my card. So hopefully . . . That's just a complete aside, but it occurred to me when the minister was providing his second reading comments last week . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I guess the Minister of Finance is concerned about those born on leap day which happens occasionally. I did know somebody that was born on leap day. But you know, just something to think about, and I'm curious. Maybe the minister has some suggestions for that.

[15:30]

At any rate, what he's telling us about in this bill is there's a new section in here in order to allow delegation of the minister's authority to eHealth Saskatchewan. And so what it's doing is just allowing the ministry and the minister to pass on . . . Because eHealth is now operating the health registration program, he's asking that the bill for health administration be amended to reflect that transfer of authority.

So the section that we're talking about here, section 6.5 of *The Health Administration Act*, that's probably the most critical section in the bill or in the entire Act, and it deals with all about cards: what happens when you get a health card, who's allowed to issue it, what happens if you fake a health card or use a card that's not yours. And there's all kinds of penalties and, you know, you can get a fine for \$50,000 if you contravene any of these provisions in terms of you being issued a health card. So it's a serious, serious piece of administration. It's important.

And I guess as a citizen of Saskatchewan, it's something I'm really proud to have is a health card because it tells me I am a citizen of a province that believes in universal health care and that I have access to the health system equally with every other person in the province. And that's something that's really important to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

At any rate, the new clause that they're inserting is the clause, it's going to be called clause 2.1. And what clause 2.1 . . . That's the only section in this Act, this Act to amend *The Health Administration Act*. And basically what it says is that the

minister can now designate his powers to the Crown corporation or an agency of the Government of Saskatchewan. And in this case it would be eHealth is the Crown corporation that the minister's indicated will have this designation. And if he does do that, which he will do with eHealth, then anything that he could do will now be . . . eHealth will be able to do in his place. So that's really the whole amendment Act in a nutshell.

I want to note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the numbering in the H statutes . . . This might be for the Minister of Justice more so than the Minister of Health. But this particular bill is now H-0.0001, because we now have an H-0.001 and we have an H-0.01. So we're getting into an H numbering problem here that can be very confusing and certainly even our own binders here are quite confused. So that might be something. I don't know if you can renumber bills in a better way. Obviously that's one that makes sense in terms of the Dewey decimal system, but it was really confusing to try and figure out which bill we're talking about here.

The other thing that's somewhat interesting is that this government actually made amendments to *The Health Administration Act* just this year and why . . . Earlier this spring we passed a bill to amend this Act and now we're amending it again in the fall. And I just kind of wonder sometimes if there couldn't be better coordination of all these amendments. And I'm not sure. Maybe eHealth wasn't ready to be, take over this responsibility. But it's just kind of strange though we see this, *The Health Administration Act*, having four clauses repealed earlier this year, and now we're dealing with an amendment to section 6.5.

And even the numbering of this bill is quite interesting. You've got section 1. You've got section 5, 6, and then you've got section 6.1, section 6.2, section 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, and then we go on with 7, 8, 9, and 10. So just kind of strange little things that are creeping up. But I think when you amend bills as frequently as we have been with this one, you see these kind of strange anomalies popping up. But that's merely an observation on the part of a lowly backbencher on the opposition side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to make these kinds of observations, but really in the whole scheme of the universe it's probably neither here nor there.

And that's the extent to my comments on this particular bill. It's a short little bill, a housekeeping bill to allow eHealth to do what it needs to do to look after our health cards. And again, you know, in terms of scintillating legislative debate, I'm afraid it's not available in this particular bill because there isn't enough there. But maybe, maybe there are bills coming that we will be able to really get our teeth into.

So without further ado, I'd like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *An Act to amend The Health Administration Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — House Leader.

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

Mr. McCall: — Always good to be recognized, Mr. Deputy Speaker, especially by your good self. Thanks for the introduction into what is a fairly . . . In stark contrast to my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana's remarks around the character of the legislation previously under consideration, this one, this bill under consideration, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*, I think is fairly substantial, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I have to say off the top I'm glad to see this bill coming forward here today. I'll get into the particulars of the legislation and discussion of the objectives as laid out by the Minister of Justice in his second reading speech. But I want to say off the top, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that again I'm glad to see this come forward because Saskatchewan's got a problem and it's got a big problem. It's got, by the statistics, a nation-leading problem when it comes to domestic violence.

And it takes a lot of different efforts to address the kind of statistics that we see presented on a fairly consistent basis, Mr. Speaker. It takes a legislative approach. It takes a programmatic approach, but it also takes men and women, communities standing up and saying that this is unacceptable and this is something that we need to address as a society. And again, Mr. Speaker, it gives me no great pleasure to say that. But the numbers speak, and they say some pretty terrible things about the situation here in Saskatchewan. And there's too much domestic violence certainly across the country, Mr. Speaker, but again, as of the last in-depth study by Statistics Canada that I believe used 2011 data, Saskatchewan leads the country in terms of domestic violence.

And again, Mr. Speaker, that makes sense when you talk to people that run the transition houses in this province, if you listen to people that are associated with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses, if you listen to those in law enforcement, if you listen to those that do research in this regard, Mr. Speaker. And it also presents in other sort of ways that are related but not necessarily top of mind. But certainly the way that Saskatchewan figures into the broader discussion around murdered and missing Aboriginal women is something that's very much part of this conversation.

And again there are some good things that are being done, have been done by past governments. And certainly the work that this provincial government has carried on in terms of the task force around addressing murdered and missing Aboriginal

women is important, and the support that this government and certainly members of our bench have lent to the call for a Royal Commission on the wildly unacceptable waste of life and potential that is inherent in the situation for missing and murdered Aboriginal women in this province and in this country. We support that call, and we're glad to see it being called for by the government opposite.

But again, Mr. Speaker, it goes to the reminder of just how big the task is in front of us and how big the challenge is in terms of the real damage and waste that is laid to too many lives in terms of domestic violence but the broader question of violence in our society and interpersonal violence in general.

And it's from the statistics, which tell a terrible story in and of themselves. I know that a lot of members in this Assembly have got faces and perhaps family and perhaps individuals that are near and dear to them that tell the whole story in terms of what I think this legislation is setting out to accomplish in terms of trying to address the situation around domestic violence in Saskatchewan.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it's not just one piece of legislation. It's not just one program. It's not just one set of attitudes being changed. It's that broad front of actions that need to be addressed.

And, Mr. Speaker, so again I'm glad to see this legislation coming forward here today. And it just begs the question, is this enough? And when we talk to people in the transition houses and try to reckon with the kind of wait-lists and the kind of demands that are on that capacity in that part of the system, Mr. Speaker, it again begs the question, is it enough in terms of a response?

When we think about our own attitudes and the way that society is reflected back at us in different things, either through, you know, leading personalities in the field of sports or in culture and indeed in politics, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've all got to ask ourselves, are we doing enough to address interpersonal violence and domestic violence in this country? So to the bill itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again we're glad to see it coming forward and, you know, again it's a mixed bag in terms of it's good to see it coming forward but, you know, does it address the challenge that is there in the community?

We'll be interested to see . . . again, to do the due diligence that is there to be undertaken, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of, has the consultation on this been broad enough and does this fit the bill? I think on the face of it, it holds out a good chance for that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But again, things such as, to quote from the minister's second reading speech:

. . . to provide an additional tool to a responding police officer to separate individuals who represent an imminent risk of injury to each other. It's critical to the functionality of the Act that police and victims are able to immediately seek an emergency intervention order by telephone.

I certainly agree with that, Mr. Speaker. There's an urgency to these things that is undeniable. And if this Act aids in an

appropriate response to those situations, we're glad to see it.

Carrying on through the second reading speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the Act attempting to:

. . . [strike] a balance between the risk to an individual who fears violence and the procedural rights of the respondent. The operational success of this legislation has been in providing a tool to the police and to shelter workers that allow them to provide an immediate response to calls for assistance without permanently affecting any status or legal rights of the respondent.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there is a balance to be struck there. But that one set of rights should feed into a situation that is in too many cases literally lethal for one of the parties involved, again that balance has to be reckoned with very carefully.

In terms of the other aspects of the legislation following different developments, both in terms of the application or the initial Act back to 1994 and to other jurisdictions in trying to glean the lessons that are there to be learned from, Mr. Speaker, we're glad to see that.

In terms of the more technical aspects of the legislation, again how this relates for peace officers, for law enforcement, for justices of the peace, for the granting of emergency intervention orders, these are all things that we'll have more questions about, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

So to wrap up my comments at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this would certainly seem to be a worthwhile piece of legislation. We've got some definite questions as to how the different . . . of the finer details contained therein, where they arise from, and whether or not they'll have the desired impact. But certainly we're glad to see any kind of, you know, additional efforts being made in addressing the situation with domestic violence in Saskatchewan and that Saskatchewan might do its part in taking on this thing and provide leadership not just in the incidence of domestic violence, Mr. Speaker, but in the work to address this terrible situation. With that, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Certainly various of my comments just delivered in the debate around Bill No. 144 would attach to the work being sought to be accomplished here in Bill No. 152.

I guess the one thing I would add here, Mr. Speaker, and it would be interesting to see how either this or the previous Act help out this cause, but earlier this fall we had a terrible situation up around Unity, Saskatchewan, where, in terms of the reporting of the incident, it was a murder-suicide, a man and a wife, a terrible situation, Mr. Speaker. It speaks to a number of mental health questions, but it also speaks to the way that we, as a society, acknowledge a problem.

And if you're going to take on a problem, Mr. Speaker, you first have to know the details. You have to acknowledge that there's a problem, and then you have to find out what's going on. And certainly the confusion that existed around the reporting out of this circumstance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think leaves a number of questions that certainly attach to this broader debate.

And again the RCMP's initial response was that there were two people that had died suddenly, and then of course the details gradually emerged. And again the RCMP was working out of a concern for privacy, and that's certainly fair enough. But if society is going to know what the problem is, Mr. Speaker, there has to be a way that this is accurately reflected in the reporting.

And again there's certainly indication enough in the statistics as they exist, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for people in Saskatchewan to know that we've got a big challenge on our hands in terms of addressing domestic violence and interpersonal violence. But as regards this circumstance, it just I think raises a number of questions that might be better addressed under different pieces of legislation. But that this wasn't reported for what it was straightaway, obviously raises some questions about the adequacy of that balance that needs to be struck between privacy and proper reporting these situations under the different pieces of legislation. But, Mr. Speaker, perhaps that's a set of questions that's better addressed in committee.

But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate on Bill No. 145, *An Act respecting the Waiver of Fees and making consequential amendments to other Acts*.

And so it's an interesting piece of legislation and part of a suite of things that we're seeing from the Justice branch. And of course, you know, we were talking about class action lawsuits and different things last night and got to talking about waiver of fees. And I find that an interesting discussion because in terms of, especially, the minister alluded to folks who may not be able to afford the fees, and what can we do to make sure people have appropriate and fair access to justice in a timely manner?

And this is an important aspect of how we value that in our society, in our province, and our country. Everyone has access to justice. And it's not just a matter of those who can afford it, who can pay for it. And of course sometimes we wonder and we have raised questions, but why are there such high fees for, for example, residential tenancies claims? Why is there a fee at all? You know, we have a situation where these are renters who are making complaints.

And I'd be curious to know, but I'm sure Justice doesn't keep track of this, who actually comes in and makes the complaints. Is it the folks in the high-end rentals that are complaining about the fairness of their concerns? Now who knows? And it would be interesting to have some background on this.

I mean, it is interesting this government is taking, and we're glad to hear this after much urging on our behalf, that they are going to take a look at an anti-poverty strategy. But it has to be complete and full and look at all the costs that somehow people who are in vulnerable circumstances find themselves in. And one of those is as tenants, and what are the concerns that they have. And one of them we often hear is a barrier is the cost to . . . Cost is a barrier when they have concerns about what's happening in terms of their rental accommodations, and whether it's getting their deposits back, some unfairness in terms of the rent increases, that type of thing.

So we have a concern about, first, why the fee in the first place when we're really thinking that everyone should have access to those arenas for concerns and complaints. But they do happen, and I'm just . . . I would be curious to see that if this would and if this has been brought up by Justice to Social Services to say, so what are people coming in and what are their concerns about justice? And where are the main ones that people are talking about?

And so we'll have that, we'll have that question for the minister, you know, that it's just not people on low income, but people who are the working poor or people who feel that they're caught up in circumstances where they may or may not be able to pay for a fee. But because they can't pay for their fee, then they're really denied access to justice.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to review the minister's comments because they're always informative, and they should be. But they do leave some gaps, as often we have questions.

For example the minister talks a bit about consultation but doesn't really mention who they consulted, how they conducted that. And we know that for this government, that is a spotty record at best because of the way that they do their consultations. It's not really accessible, and they don't really dig down deep to find out what are the barriers to getting fairness and getting fair access to justice.

So he talks about "... allowing for the waiver of administrative fees at courts and tribunals for lower income litigants," and that implements "... various enhancements to the existing fee waiver program." And so it talks about there's no fee waiver program for small claims court, talks about the Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench, and "... there's no process to obtain a new waiver at the Court of ..." So this will allow individuals to apply for a fee waiver at all three levels of court. So fair enough. That sounds like a good, good process.

It also talks about applying to tribunals that regularly adjudicate matters for members of the public and that's the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission and the Office of Residential Tenancies that are specifically named under this Act. But I'm not sure if there's others; he doesn't name others. But "... there will be a power to subscribe additional tribunals and government bodies where they may be appropriate." And that's why I'm thinking the consultation that may happen about the anti-poverty strategy, you know, as well as bringing up people's incomes, it's what are the barriers they're finding to fair treatment? And I think this would be one where Justice should be listening, finding out where are people feeling that they're being denied access to justice because of costs, where costs are a barrier.

And then it talks about transferring "... administration of the fee waiver applications from the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission to individual courts and tribunals." And so that's relatively straightforward.

It talks about the "... processes will be kept simplified in order to ensure eligible individuals as well as courts ... are not negatively impacted by administrative processes or delays." And the simplified criteria will be set out in regulations and that "... there will be discretionary authority to grant fee waivers in special circumstances to individuals who do not meet the regular qualifications." So he wants to make sure that it's "... flexible enough to respond to unique circumstances of individual litigants."

Now he doesn't talk about any kind of time frame that they must be dealt with in two weeks or a month. So the question is ... So you can apply and it doesn't talk about how you can apply and how the process will be. Will it be electronic? Can you do it on a website, or is it going to be done in person? Is it a paper process? How will that be done? How will we take into account different language barriers? Will it be done in a whole host of languages?

I know if you check out the Human Rights Commission's website, you'll notice that they have many, many different brochures and information in all sorts of different languages. And so I'm wondering if this is going to be the case. So while it'll be simplified, will it be more ... Will it be quicker? That's often an issue. You know, if fines have to be paid or different

things have to be dealt with, you want to make sure that it's done in a relatively expedient manner. And so this is something that we really need to deal with. And so, you know, I think this an important issue.

He goes on to talk about:

... 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 a proceeding. As a result, individuals who are unable to apply for a fee waiver prior to issuing a claim are prevented from receiving a fee waiver even if that individual does not have the means to pay the court fees.

So that will take care of that and that's very important. And it will also allow for self-represented litigants to apply for these fee waiver certificates. So that's consistent with Ontario and British Columbia, so that's important. And notes that currently only if individuals are represented by legal counsel are fee waivers available. So this is really, really important.

So I think there are some interesting things here that we'll be looking for. It talks about how this:

... 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 of British Columbia v. Attorney General of British Columbia*. The Ministry of Justice has ... consulted with the Saskatchewan legal community and has found widespread support ...

[16:00]

So I'm wondering if he has consulted with the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry. They might have some insight into, what are the other tribunals that might be impacted by this? What are some of the real cost barriers that people are facing? So I think this is important.

My colleague from Riversdale talked about CLASSIC [Community Legal Assistance Services For Saskatoon Inner City Inc.] and how CLASSIC has identified several circumstances where costs have been a barrier and how we need to do more to make sure those barriers are taken away so people do have access to justice. But I'm also wondering if he had consulted with the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition. They might have an opinion on this as well.

And I think of Equal Justice For All, if this government has consulted with Equal Justice For All. Of course this is a government that really would hope that Equal Justice would go away. They took the funding away for Equal Justice For All, and I think it's really ... [inaudible interjection] ... Oh, I've hit a nerve. I've hit a nerve, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think people were listening.

But just to be clear, I know this government is no friend of Equal Justice For All. They've taken the funding away. And yet this is a group that does really good advocacy work. And I'm not sure ... and we need to find out more. We'll have questions about, how does this impact on the Social Services Appeal

Board, you know, where we know, and we know this government, we've asked questions of this government. They set aside a certain amount of money that people can pay Equal Justice For All a small amount as an individual basis to help them as advocates when they go before, you know, the Social Services Appeal Board.

But when we asked for the stats, about how many times was it used, this government didn't know. Didn't know; it couldn't provide those answers in estimates. You would think, you would think when we're in estimates, that the government would have access to that information. Couldn't provide that information.

We were just curious because, you know, the government had taken away a small global grant to Equal Justice for All. And as well they got rid of Welfare Rights in Regina just a few years prior to that who were doing good work representing low-income and people on social services before the appeal board and other areas such as the Residential Tenancies office. But got rid of that advocacy group. And with Equal Justice for All, they're getting a small, token fee as an individual, per individual, but they're not sure how many times it's actually being used. And I know those folks are on a shoestring budget but are doing really, really good work.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just find it interesting, this government in their convoluted way of raising fees, if you have a concern about rent, if you want to go to the Rentalsman and make a concern, you have to raise the rent. But now they're . . . raise the fee. But they're going to waive that fee for certain people. But we're not sure how long it's going to take and what the process is. And you know, I think we needed more clarity from the minister on this piece of legislation that he has before us.

While on first blush it looks like a good piece of legislation, there are certain gaps and inconsistencies. And as I say, particularly around the consultations, did they talk to the people who actually are impacted, impacted by these situations where they cannot access justice, and whether it's in the courts, the three levels as the minister talked about, or whether it's these two tribunals that he mentioned and that there may be more coming.

But at the end of the day if this government really was interested in supporting people, low-income people, there were a couple of major tells, if I can use that word, where they got rid of welfare for Welfare Rights in Regina. And Equal Justice For All, they put into a very dire strait by removing their funding. And while the government can't say, we're good friends, when you have good friends like that, holy smokes. I don't know, when you have problems, that's an odd way of expressing support by taking away major, major funding. That's really an odd way of showing it.

So we have some concerns about this, but we will raise them. And I know my colleagues will want to talk further about this. We will have lots of questions in committee. And I will go back, I will go back to these groups and say, what do you think about *The Fee Waiver Act*? Are there some amendments we should be talking about? Is this a complete Act? You know because quite often we will see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, amendments. We may see an amendment to *The Fee Waiver*

Act in the new year because the government has not completely done all its work, and it's now realized maybe there's some things that we should have added to this.

So I think that we need to take some time and really fully consider what the impacts are of this piece of legislation, what are the unintended consequences. And I mean, is it really hitting the mark that the minister wanted to accomplish? You know, I'm just curious about that. Is it going to really hit the mark that he wanted to do? And what is it really based on? What is it really based on? So we will have lots of questions about this piece of legislation. But at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to adjourn debate on Bill 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 145, the fee waiver amendment Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Forbes: — I have a lot to say about this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it's important we have these kinds of opportunities to really review the legislation and take a look at what are the implications of the legislation. And I think when we have an opportunity to debate Bill No. 146, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Fee Waiver Act*, I'm just curious if the members opposite have taken time to read this piece of legislation. I think it's important that we take some time and really review what this really means. What are the implications? Who have they consulted? This is probably where we're going to see lots of action in the new year where the group . . . where the minister will come back with amendments, and we'll see yet another Act that makes consequential amendments resulting from *The Fee Waiver Act*.

But at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it is related to the other one, I will just simply move adjournment of Bill No. 146, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Fee Waiver Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 146. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 150

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 150 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You keep that up, you'll be calling me honourable next or something. I'm sure maybe the member from Estevan would want in on that action as well. But anyway as ever, always good to be recognized by your good self, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and good to take my place in this Chamber and join debate on Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*.

First off, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting piece of legislation and certainly as problems arise both for tenants and for landlords in the question of residential tenancies, this is the pre-eminent piece of legislation that adjudicates those conflicts, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that legislation such as this be fair and balanced and recognizes that this is very much a two-way street, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When it comes to questions of, you know, making sure that there's fairness for tenants, making sure that there's fairness for landlords, again, Mr. Speaker, this is the legislation.

And there are a fair number of renters, there are a fair number of rental properties in the fair riding of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, and we certainly have occasion in the work that our office does on behalf of the good people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre to interact with both sides of that street, talking to both landlords on the one side of the equation, Mr. Speaker, and certainly with renters that have concerns about the way in which they've been dealt with under the legislation, and then in turn how these things are dealt with by the Office of Residential Tenancies, the current successor to the Rentalsman, Mr. Speaker.

So again in terms of recognizing that balance that is critical in questions such as these, in terms of recognizing that there are very much two interests to be recognized and addressed and sometimes those interests are conflicting, Mr. Speaker, it's important that the legislation recognize that right off the top. And so I was glad to see the Minister of Justice in his second reading speech make mention of that right from the get-go.

And again, Mr. Speaker, how this particular piece of amending legislation either lives up to that or does not, we'll certainly be doing our own due diligence as the official opposition, talking to those on the tenants' side of the equation and those that have opportunity to experience those, the problems that might arise from that perspective, and those on the landlords' side of the equation, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the changes in this particular bundle of legislation that are referenced off the top, there's a . . . to quote from the minister's second reading speech, "Some proposals benefit tenants specifically, such as the amendment expanding the time for claiming the return of a security deposit from 120 days to two years."

Carrying on in the quote, Mr. Speaker:

Although I do not expect there will be many claims that are made beyond 120 days, there certainly may be some. Two years is the general limitations period for claims in court pursuant to *The Limitations Act*, so that will be consistent.

We'll be interested to see the number of incidences, what the current lay of the land is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and how that might have application with the current situation as it presents to the Office of Residential Tenancies.

In terms of again carrying on through the information that was presented by the minister:

Another proposal for the benefit of tenants is found in the amendment to section 60, which allows landlords to evict tenants if the landlord wishes to demolish or renovate the premises or has other uses for property. Currently the notice period is one month. The proposal is to extend it to two. It's reasonable that landlords plan far enough in advance when evicting tenants for their own purposes. In addition, in the situations of demolition or renovation, the landlord must always return the entire security deposit.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see how this has played out to date. We know that there has been very urgent conversations over the past years as regards to the question of conversion from rental suites to condominiums. This certainly relates to that discussion, Mr. Speaker. So we'll be interested to see how that has evidenced itself in the experience again as related by the Office of Residential Tenancies.

Again, carrying on with the information presented by the minister:

Some proposals alleviate problems for landlords. In particular the bill expressly permits landlords to make and enforce reasonable rules in their residential premises. These rules may concern the tenants' use, occupancy, or maintenance of the premises or the tenants' use of services. Some examples may be rules concerning smoking or pets. If the rules are not reasonable, the tenant may challenge them with an application to a hearing officer. If the tenant repeatedly violates the rules, the tenant can be evicted.

[16:15]

Again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be very interested to see how that particular proposal lines up alongside the experience as lived daily by the good folks at the Office of Residential Tenancies and certainly other stakeholders throughout the community.

Carrying on, Mr. Speaker:

Other proposals include the ability for landlords to evict a tenant who has violated municipal bylaws or failed to pay municipal charges. In all these situations the tenant must be given the opportunity to correct the transgression.

On the face of it, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be a reasonable

proposition. Again, moving on through the information presented:

Parties have the opportunity under the Act to appeal the decision of a hearing officer to the Court of Queen's Bench on a question of law or jurisdiction. A new provision helps to guard against frivolous appeals that are used to extend the occupancy of the premises after an eviction order has been made. In those cases, in order to appeal, the tenant must prove good faith by depositing with the court one-half of one month's rent or establish that the rent has been paid.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we will be very interested to not just take the government's word for it, but to see how that stacks up alongside the experience of the Office of Residential Tenancies in adjudicating these matters and what sort of cases are calling forth this particular prescription under law.

Again, Mr. Speaker, referring to the minister's second reading speech:

Housing programs do not always fit nicely within the rules of *The Residential Tenancies Act*. For example, when a unit is part of a housing program and the tenant no longer qualifies for the housing program or for the particular unit, there are no grounds to remove the tenant from the rental unit. These amendments will address those issues.

We'll see how that plays out, Mr. Speaker, and see what, again, sort of circumstances are being brought forward to address that situation.

And again, so to conclude my examination of the information presented by the minister in the second reading speech, Mr. Speaker:

Finally there are amendments to make hearings more efficient, service of documents easier, appeals more expeditious, and provisions easier to understand.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be looking for a more detailed substantiation of that particular claim as we get further into the discussion of this piece of legislation.

So to close out, there seems to be some pretty . . . There's certainly some interesting measures provided in this legislation, Mr. Speaker. We know that the question of housing more broadly put in this province is one that causes an awful lot of folks an awful lot of concern, and whether or not this piece of legislation is helpful or hurtful to that situation remains to be seen.

It remains to be seen how situations wherein the damage deposit and the way that the Ministry of Social Services has had some questionable interactions with landlords throughout the province and how that is either working itself out or not, Mr. Speaker. We'll be interested to see how this piece of legislation impacts that situation. And I guess generally this raises a number of questions about the approach of this government when it comes to housing questions in general.

But certainly, Mr. Speaker, I know that we've got a lot more

due diligence to be done on this particular piece of legislation, and a lot more consultation. And so with that, I would move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 151

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 151 — *The Pharmacy 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. Glad to join debate today on Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*. It's always interesting to see questions of scope of practice being brought forward in legislation. Of course it's with the law that we find the edges and the powers by which that scope of practice is exercised in the health sector, Mr. Speaker. So be it nurse practitioners or in this case pharmacists, Mr. Speaker, it's always interesting to see particular pieces of legislation brought forward.

Again we've got our due diligence to be done here, Mr. Speaker, but in terms of expanding the ". . . scope of practice for pharmacists, and . . . [benefiting] patients through health care services that are more efficient and accessible," as contended by the Minister of Health in the second reading speech for this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that would seem to be a great thing.

And certainly we know that there's a lot of proud pharmacists in this province, both those that are on the front lines delivering health care and those that are on the regulatory side or on the training and education side, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's a pretty thoughtful group of people and a very highly skilled and effective component in the health care team, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the specific changes being anticipated around scope of practice by the minister in this particular legislation, Mr. Speaker, I quote:

Due to their accessibility, pharmacists are frequently patients' first point of contact in the health care system. This is particularly true in rural areas where pharmacies may be open longer hours than medical clinics or may be more easily accessed than the clinic.

That's certainly true. There's a cousin of mine that has done a fair amount of pharmacy work over the years in the Grenfell and Wolseley neck of the woods in this province, Mr. Speaker. And certainly you've got someone out there on the front lines of the health care delivery in this province — I know that it's certainly true in her circumstance — that there's a better use to

be made of all the skills and knowledge and health care wisdom that she possesses.

And so again, if this enables better care in that regard and a better use of existing resources and a better sort of alignment of existing opportunities to deliver health care, we'll see how that works out. But it would seem to be a reasonable proposition, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of "the amendments . . . will allow pharmacists to administer vaccines and drugs such as a flu shot and vitamin B12 shots," again, going to scope of practice and better use thereof should be not a bad thing, Mr. Speaker.

. . . the amendments will enable pharmacists to order, access, and use laboratory tests, working in collaboration with a physician. As pharmacists move into a more clinical role, pharmacy technicians will assume more of the technical duties such as dispensing. To support this move, amendments will also regulate pharmacy technicians to ensure that they are able to independently assume many of these duties in a safe and effective manner.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be a fair set of moves by this government. Certainly with that expanded scope of practice, there has to come an expanded oversight. So we're interested to see how that works out.

But I guess the other changes in the legislation as presented by the minister are very much in a housekeeping vein: changing the names of the legislation; clarifying the two separate pharmacy professions, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; clarifying terminology concerning pharmacy ownership.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these things would seem to be fairly straightforward. But as ever, we'll be looking to do our homework and get our due diligence in on this to ensure that the good potential that seems to be evident here in the legislation is borne out in fact.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 143

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 143** — *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today on Bill No. 143, *An Act to amend The*

Degree Authorization Act. And this is relatively a short, straightforward piece of legislation.

And I'll talk a bit about it, but I do have to say, you know, sometimes you hear us on this side of the House talk about how the minister's comments aren't that long, but in this case they were quite extensive. I was wondering if he wanted to go, if he was working for our side that night with his speech. It was quite lengthy. What's that?

An Hon. Member: — New minister.

Mr. Forbes: — New minister, yes. It was quite thorough and it provided quite a review of the degree authorization process. He was really doing his job. And so for that I do want to say thanks. And he does talk about the five or six circumstances where the grandfathering provision for allowing the new post-secondary institutions to get up to speed, be able to be in the right place to grant degrees, and it seemed each one had kind of a unique circumstance that was not allowing them to be in the place they wanted to be. But I found it very interesting.

I mean the Act is straightforward. We actually do want to see . . . In many ways, we have a really well-educated population in many ways in Saskatchewan. In fact actually I think Saskatoon . . . I could be corrected by the folks but I think that Saskatoon at one time boasted the highest per capita degree-holding city in Canada. And it was quite something that we were very proud of.

But it's interesting to have other degree institutions come online, become available to our students in Saskatchewan throughout the province. And that's an important thing. And of course, as we know, post-secondary learning is expanding in so many different ways that it's very important that we make sure everything is done appropriately.

Now the minister referenced the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board and of course we haven't heard much about that board since it was established a few years ago. And we'll have questions about that: who is on the board, the kind of work they're doing, the costs that are involved. But it's an important board to have because their role is to make sure that when people do receive degrees and they do receive post-secondary education, a higher education in Saskatchewan, that there are assurances that it is the best possible, that it's working at the level it should be. And it's arm's length, and that's very, very important. And so we'll have questions about that because we just want to be brought up to speed on that.

It does talk about that they were part of the groups that were consulted with. The ministerial staff discussed the consultations with the stakeholders, including the quality assurance board, the institutions, and the broader Saskatchewan post-secondary sector. You know, I remember a few years ago when we were first talking about this, some of the groups that they hadn't consulted with were students. And I don't know if in this case they did talk to the students, particularly those who have been enrolled in these institutions that the government minister references, whether it'd be Briercrest College, Cape Breton University, Great Plains College, Athabasca University, and Lakeland College.

What exactly has been their experience at these post-secondary institutions? Are they meeting the expectations of students? Are students experiencing success in terms of quality of learning and the outcomes that they were expecting to have, and then leading on to further training or leading on to a career? Is it really meeting the goals and objectives that we had heard this government set out a few years ago?

[16:30]

So I would be curious to know from the minister: did they consult with students and the student organizations that might be involved? I think that's an important stakeholder group that's important to hear from. As well we know that, and we've seen this and we saw this happen in the spring with another post-secondary bill that came forward, the one group that hadn't been consulted were the faculties. Have the faculties been consulted with? The teachers, the instructors, were they part of the discussions at all in terms of these amendments?

You know, they do seem relatively straightforward and we do want to be able to see these institutions succeed. And if we can make that happen, that's a good thing. But we do not want to see a delay or . . . Well students are paying fees and having expectations. And if these institutions are in any way representing themselves in a way that they shouldn't be, then it's important that we don't let this go on and on and on. Either they will be able to, you know, grant degrees or they will not be able to. So we need to have clarity around that. That's why it'll be interesting and it would be interesting to hear from the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board. They're not a very high-profile organization, and I don't know if they need to be. I'm not demanding that they do much more than what they're doing now, but I don't know whether they have an annual report. How do they report out? How many times do they meet a year? What are their costs? What are the kind of questions that they're dealing with?

And so I think that it's important that we know much more about that because I understand . . . And I don't know what the role is when the minister talks about that they've been having discussions and consulted with stakeholders, including the quality assurance board. Were there other concerns that they brought forward? What were all the concerns, all the suggestions from the stakeholders? Was this the only one? Is this the only issue that they had was the fact that they weren't going to meet their deadlines in terms of meeting the requirements around degrees? Were there other concerns that they had? We don't know. I mean in terms of a lengthy speech like this, you would think maybe the minister would have identified them, but he clearly hadn't, and I think that it's important that we hear the full discussion.

So if there is an annual report, we may be taking a look to see what they actually have been identifying. Or do they only report out to the minister? While being arm's length, that's very important, but do they only report out to the minister? I'm not sure about that. So is this something that cabinet is the only group that has access to this information? I'm not sure.

So we have those kind of questions for the minister and it would be great, it's always timely to have a full discussion about the state of affairs for, the state of affairs in terms of the

quality of post-secondary education here in Saskatchewan. And if it can be informed by this board as it's supposed to be, then that would be great to hear. And how do they keep in touch? How do people access, how do students access the quality assurance board?

I don't know if many students are aware that there is a Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board. Is it one that often has a presence at post-secondary facilities in our province? I have not heard many students talk about raising concerns to them. Do they meet on a regular basis with faculties, administration, and students? I'm not sure about that.

So I have some questions about that. But as I say, this is a time these things get profiled. It gets profiled and we really have some interest in this because, as I say, you know, we take a lot of pride in our institutions here in Saskatchewan. And we know the University of Saskatchewan went through a major challenge last spring with TransformUS. And it would be interesting to know what the quality assurance board had to say about that, you know. And were they part of the discussions around TransformUS, or is this only for the smaller post-secondary organizations? Or do they have any thoughts, any comments around what's happening at the University of Saskatchewan?

Now the University of Regina, we always feel like we've got to give equal time. If we talk about University of Saskatchewan, you've got to definitely talk about University of Regina. Do they have any comments about University of Regina? I'd be curious to know about that as well.

So having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think this is an interesting piece of legislation that allows us to ask further questions about how things are going in the post-secondary world, and I know that we will have those questions in committee. But at this point, I know many of my colleagues will want to get in on the debate on this piece of legislation, Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Act*. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 148

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 148 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de l'état civil*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I believe thanks to the member from Regina South for the congratulations there, sir, whatever that was passing for. But, Mr. Speaker, vital statistics, certainly a vital debate before the House, and this is certainly something that again continues

to evolve as the situation presents in the province.

Now in terms of what's being presented here, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to, in the main, try to keep up with the proper delineation of powers, for example, properly identifying what is available to nurse practitioners for example as regards their abilities to sign off on medical certificates of those dead and stillborn, enabling the in-future addition of prescribed practitioners, enabling the minister to disclose vital statistics information in unique circumstances for circumstances not provided for in the legislation.

I put a pin in that one, Mr. Speaker, and add parenthetically and gently, we'll be interested to see what sort of unique circumstances not provided for in the legislation are actually anticipated by the minister. Again it provides a fairly big blank cheque in terms of what the minister may or may not approve of. And again, where you move these things out of the actual legislative and the prescribed authority into more of a notional and let the minister do what they will, it's always pretty critical to make sure that you've got a very precise idea of what's being anticipated to get this government on the record in terms of how they see that going forward and then of course measuring that up against the actual practice thereof.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of vital statistics, this is about as . . . information, you know, in terms of the developments around information technology. Certainly there are a lot of ramifications in that regard for vital statistics.

As regards the sharing of information and the proper sharing of that information, Mr. Speaker, the minister in the second reading speech referenced:

. . . the missing children's project of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada requested death information for Aboriginal children who attended residential schools in Saskatchewan. [And stated that] . . . under the current legislation . . . [being] unable to provide information after the year 1945.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there are some things that we'd like to see facilitated, and in terms of the important work of that — the TRC, or the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — we'll be interested to see how this actually facilitates that.

But again, Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that, you know, certainly is always evolving, be it on the technology side of the equation, but also questions of identity and how identities are properly recorded and put down on that official record. I know that even in the past decade, Mr. Speaker, we've had changes made to the legislation, and I think positive changes to accommodate the fact that you have same-sex couples, and the fact that the parents of a given child and how their authority relates to that child under the law is recorded by vital statistics or not, and making sure that the legislation keeps up with the realities of today's families, Mr. Speaker. It's important to see how the legislation either helps that or hinders.

So in many regards, Mr. Speaker, this is information. It's very interesting information presented by the minister concerning the changes being brought forward here. Again on the face of it, a lot of this would seem to be fairly straightforward or common

sense. But, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly take our time to do the due diligence, to do the consultation, to make sure that things are as they seem, for one, and also, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how this law might impact the law of unintended consequences and certainly what impacts this legislation might have.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues have interest in the debate. And certainly we will pursue that through second readings, and it should be an interesting exchange come committee time. But for the meantime, I'd move to adjourn Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 141

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Docherty that **Bill No. 141** — *The Archives and Public Records Management Act* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As an old and increasingly aged history student, it's always with great interest to see things related to the archives come forward. And certainly the new Act around incorporating the amendments of what's proposed here under *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*, it's an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Again archives, they're sort of fundamental to what constitutes free and informed debate in our democratic society. They let us know our history and therefore let us know where we've been, where we might want to be going in the future, and where we might not want to be going in the future, Mr. Speaker.

So the archives, it's always pretty interesting to see things coming forward around the archives. But this consolidates existing legislation, that it seems to make a better recognition of the increasingly electronic nature of communications on the part of governments and the way that that translates into the public record.

In terms of being more precise in terms of what is expected of different public officials in securing records and the deposit thereof with the archives, it's an interesting piece of legislation and certainly, Mr. Speaker, we will have a great number of questions about how this relates to the stated intent of the legislation.

And I know that other of my colleagues have questions about this legislation as well. We've got more consultation to undertake certainly, Mr. Speaker, and we'll engage in that. But for the time being, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[16:45]

Bill No. 142

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Docherty that **Bill No. 142 — *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée *The Archives and Public Records Management Act**** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I think I've spoken about this before in the past, but sometimes consequential amendments are seemingly less than consequential in the way that they are presented. But of course this relates to changes ushering forth from to a couple of different pieces of legislation necessitated by the changes to *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*.

So in terms of the word changes anticipated by this in *The Evidence Act* and *The Education Act*, it would seem to be fairly straightforward, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be following up to ensure that that is in fact the case. But for the time being, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure to rise and join debate on Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Act*, and certainly it's a fairly succinct piece of legislation. And again as regards certain of these things, Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to see how what is a relatively succinct piece of legislation might have broader impact. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I'd draw your attention to the proposed

section 40(4) under costs, and this is again from the draft legislation. Quote. This is, again, section 40(4): "This section applies to proceedings commenced and costs incurred before, on or after this section comes into force."

This is a retroactive piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be interested to gain a more precise understanding from the minister as to why this is necessary, for one, and then two, what other sort of applications this will have across the piece in terms of either suits currently joined or in the legal environment already. But why the need for this to be retroactive? It would be one question we'll have for the minister.

And certainly it's, I don't know if it's terribly well addressed in the minister's second reading remarks. Certainly with those second reading remarks, Mr. Speaker, there are some good insights to the other aspects of the legislation, a bit of an overview of the history of the legislation itself. But as regards the burning need for retroactivity, well we've got the questions ongoing for that.

But certainly as ever, Mr. Speaker, the second reading speeches of ministers are interesting things and I'd refer today again to that second reading speech, the legislation itself being fairly short — one page long and a few subsections to go. But again that one particular aspect of retroactivity, Mr. Speaker, one clause, but huge, potentially huge impacts.

As regards the ... [inaudible] ... the minister's comments, quote:

... when class action legislation was first introduced in Saskatchewan, the court's normal discretion to award costs in the regular course of proceedings was removed. This was done out of concern that the threat of large cost awards could deter legitimate claimants from participating in class action matters. Albert and Nova Scotia's class action legislation has demonstrated that a more balanced approach can be taken rather than prohibiting cost awards outright in class action litigation. This bill is based on the approach taken in those jurisdictions.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we'll be looking to gain better understanding of what has that experience been from those other jurisdictions. The minister is correct. That was certainly one of the cautions that was flagged when class action legislation was first brought in, I believe, about a decade ago. My colleague from Lakeview refreshed my memory. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of being a legitimate concern, the minister has got that right, but we'll be interested to see how that has played out in Alberta and Nova Scotia and again how that impacts the legislation under consideration here today.

Again the minister related that:

... this bill will provide courts authority to award costs in class actions in appropriate circumstances. In allowing costs to be assessed, the bill will also provide the judge discretion to take into consideration the following factors when deciding ... to award costs: the public interest, whether the action involves a novel point of law, whether the action is a test case, access to justice for members of the public using class action proceedings, and any other

factors that the court considers appropriate.

p.m. tomorrow.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see how the current experience of the practice of the class action legislation, how that has related to those various categories iterated by the minister. And it will be interesting to see again if there are specific cases that are prompting the action in this legislation.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:55.]

Again, Mr. Speaker, quoting from the minister's second reading speech:

... these amendments to *The Class Actions Act* will restore the discretion to courts to control their own processes, as in regular litigation matters, while still addressing the unique access-to-justice concerns that arise with class action litigation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of it having been a relatively new legislation ... and there's certainly been a desire to gain the experience. That would seem to be a fair point. And again, we'll be interested to see just what the contours of that reboot of the authority of the courts looks like as regards to this piece of legislation, and we'll be following that closely.

But lastly, Mr. Speaker, I return to the question of retroactivity, and again this is a fairly unique characteristic of legislation. The section 40(4), we will be interested to know if there's a specific case anticipated by this particular clause. We'll be interested to know what cases might be impacted by this particular clause. We'll be interested to note just what is bringing this retroactivity forward. Because again, Mr. Speaker, retroactivity in legislation is a fairly remarkable occurrence and usually, to borrow a phrase, usually legislation's on a go-forward basis. But the way that this reaches into the past, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see what in particular it might be reaching for or what's prompting that retroactivity.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, we've got a lot more questions to ask about this legislation. Certainly my colleagues are interested in this debate as well and will be looking to participate in these adjourned debate proceedings. But for the time being, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 147, *An Act to amend The Class Actions Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe.....	5905
Sproule.....	5905
Ottenbreit.....	5905
Belanger.....	5905

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes.....	5905
Wotherspoon.....	5906
Vermette.....	5906
Chartier.....	5906
McCall.....	5906
Sproule.....	5906

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Statement of Thanks	
Young.....	5907
Treaty 6 Document Comes Home	
Vermette.....	5907
Awards Presented at Francophone Gala	
Wilson.....	5907
Good Wishes for Hockey Hero	
Chartier.....	5907
Habitat for Humanity Build in Weyburn	
Duncan.....	5908
Regina Sikh Community Hosts Supper Night	
Ross.....	5908
Small Business Receives Entrepreneurial Resiliency Award	
Norris.....	5908

QUESTION PERIOD

Patient Care and the Lean Initiative	
Brotten.....	5909
Duncan.....	5909
Long-Term Care for Seniors	
Chartier.....	5911
Duncan.....	5911
Food Bank Usage and Social Programs	
Forbes.....	5912
Harpauer.....	5912

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 161 — <i>The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune</i>	
Moe.....	5913

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 159 — <i>The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act</i>	
Stewart.....	5913
Belanger.....	5914

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 153 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
Sproule.....	5915
Bill No. 154 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)</i>	
<i>Loi no 2 de 2014 modifiant le droit législatif</i>	
Sproule.....	5916
Bill No. 155 — <i>The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 sur les directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé</i>	
Nilson.....	5916
Bill No. 156 — <i>The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers</i>	
<i>Consequential Amendments Act, 2014</i>	
Nilson.....	5918
Bill No. 157 — <i>The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014</i>	
Nilson.....	5918

Bill No. 158 — <i>The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
Vermette	5921
Bill No. 149 — <i>The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
Sproule	5922
Bill No. 144 — <i>The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
McCall	5923
Bill No. 152 — <i>The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée <i>The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014</i></i>	
McCall	5925
Bill No. 145 — <i>The Fee Waiver Act</i>	
Forbes	5925
Bill No. 146 — <i>The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée <i>The Fee Waiver Act</i></i>	
Forbes	5927
Bill No. 150 — <i>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
McCall	5928
Bill No. 151 — <i>The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
McCall	5929
Bill No. 143 — <i>The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
Forbes	5930
Bill No. 148 — <i>The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de l'état civil</i>	
McCall	5931
Bill No. 141 — <i>The Archives and Public Records Management Act</i>	
McCall	5932
Bill No. 142 — <i>The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée <i>The Archives and Public Records Management Act</i></i>	
McCall	5933
Bill No. 147 — <i>The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014</i>	
<i>Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs</i>	
McCall	5933

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