



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

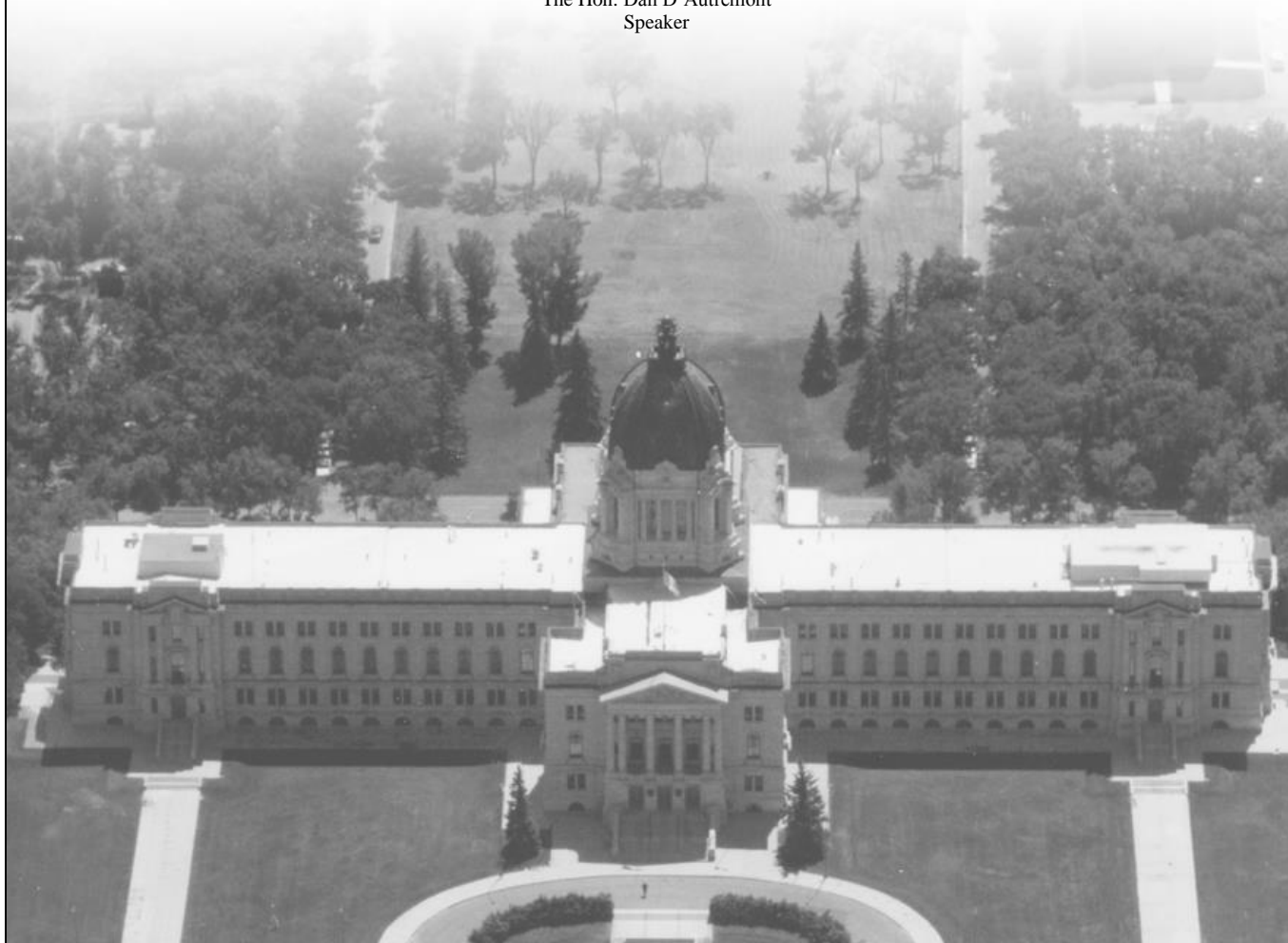
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



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| Wotherspoon, Trent | NDP | Regina Rosemont |
| Wyant, Hon. Gordon | SP | Saskatoon Northwest |
| Young, Colleen | SP | Lloydminster |

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

The Speaker: — It now being 7 o'clock, debate will resume.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 146

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 146 — *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Fee Waiver Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep my comments very brief as it relates to Bill No. 146, the consequential amendments for *The Fee Waiver Act*.

I've spoken to Bill No. 145, and certainly we'll be following up with direct consultation with stakeholders in the legal community and stakeholders in the community at large as it relates to those that are impacted with the barriers to the justice system. Certainly we definitely urge and support actions to make our justice system accessible to all. Any impediments and barriers to access that system can be a direct barrier to individuals having the rights and dignities that they deserve. So this is important for us to have meaningful action.

The question is as to whether or not the actions taken in this bill itself are as meaningful as they can be, as significant as they can be. But I've put all those comments on the record for Bill No. 145, and recognized the meaningful efforts of so many in our community who work to extend the justice system to all Saskatchewan people. And this is important from a democratic perspective, from a perspective of being a healthy, civil society, and making sure that all Saskatchewan people have, as I say, the rights and protections that they deserve.

The Bill No. 146 is simply the consequential amendments. We'll be following up directly with the minister for some specificity on the regulations that are mentioned in 145 and making sure that he makes clear some of the broad terms that he's described.

And as we know with this government, when this government brings forward legislation, we know that you have to go forward and that we as the official opposition have to connect with stakeholders, because far too often that government rams forward with their own agenda, not consulting with those that are impacted, not understanding the logical consequences, the unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker.

We see that today with the Minister of Education who has . . . you know, having to change what was an election promise and their failure at the time to consult with the education sector when they ram forward with reckless legislation, Mr. Speaker.

As I say, on the changes that were brought forward to *The Education Act* today, it's disappointing that they also didn't clean up the mess they've created in monkeying around with the school day and the disparities they've created in teacher time and the unilateral actions they push forward without any respect to the collective bargaining process and labour rights of those fine educators, Mr. Speaker.

But as it relates to Bill No. 146, the consequential amendments to support Bill No. 145, we'll be following up in due course. And I adjourn debate at this time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*. Before we get in on some of these legislation, I realize it's up to the government to bring in legislation that affect our residents, the changes, amend them, new legislation. I was hoping in this amendment that they're bringing forward, this Act they're introducing and the changes they're making, they would introduce some of the changes that have affected many renters.

And I think about some of our seniors, our people who are living in low-income housing. If you look at those tenants whose rents have been raised to 30 per cent from 25, you look at the challenges many of them are facing. I was hoping this would be some of the legislation that the government would want to introduce, bring in. But obviously so far, I mean obviously we can make some amendments and I guess we can make some suggestions to this bill.

But having said that, we see the challenges back home. And whether, I guess, it would be in housing issues and the cost of living, affordability, and just people trying to make ends meet, whether someone's living in poverty — and we see that, like we see the challenges that many, many working families are facing in this province.

Yes, you know, some will say some are doing very well. And we're happy for them. Some of the entrepreneurs are doing great. Some of the different, the bigger companies are doing great. Some of the small, you know, let's say the small-business people are doing well. They're working hard. They're trying to . . . You know, so there's opportunities for I guess small companies, as they would say, the mom and pop teams that are

out there doing some great work, entrepreneurs hiring people. That's all great, and we're happy for those that are doing well.

But for the people that are struggling with affordability — and whether it's seniors, whether it's low-income people just trying to make ends meet with the cost of food, the cost of utilities — we have a government that continues, continues to take taxpayers' dollars, do certain things with those dollars, and then expect the residents of this province, the hard-working seniors . . . Seniors working hard — working hard, trying to make ends meet.

And the members can say all they want. This is more about serious stuff. And I'll tell you, it's interesting to watch how some of them like to heckle when it's easy, you know, heckle about this type of thing when you talk about affordability, when we talk about people trying to make ends meet. They're trying to make ends meet. Families out there struggling, they're trying to make ends meet and they're trying to pay their rent. And they raised their rents on them up to 30 per cent. Do they consult them? No, they don't. Do they ask our seniors? Do they ask the families? Do they? No, they don't ask them. They just go ahead and they attack working men and women, working families. This government should be ashamed of themselves, the way they act. But having said that, you know, Mr. Speaker, let's get back to the bill and let's talk about this.

Now here's what we want to talk about. Here's what we want to talk about. We'll get a chance — I know my colleagues will — and there's going to be some exciting times, right? Because they're going to take some of the changes that need to happen to help and make it more affordable. Maybe they're going to rescind some of the prices that they're charging people for social housing, when people are struggling, the most vulnerable. Instead of raising it to 30 per cent, why don't you put it down to 25 per cent? And you know what? At the end of the day they may say, well the minister can do that. That's good. That's good. Why don't you guys do that then? That's a good suggestion.

There, some of those backbenchers that aren't doing what they should be doing — fighting for working family and for people — maybe it's time you stand up and do do some talking instead of sitting there reading your members' statements all the time. It's great that you do that, but fight for some of the community members back home. I will continue, Mr. Speaker, to fight for those individuals, not like members opposite over there, you know.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are so many . . . Like I'm talking about the changes that are being proposed and amendments, where it's going to give powers, certain powers. But I think it was important to talk about the affordability, and I was hoping this government would change things when they bring in legislation, when they make changes, when they would consult with people that are being affected.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? I went and talked to a lot of people back home who phoned my office. You go and meet with them, and they're frustrated. They can't make ends meet. But they're being evicted from their homes because they can't pay the utilities. They can't pay the utilities. Why? Because this government decides — you know what? — rents are going to

go up. Utilities are going to go up. So it's about affordability. It's about affordability.

And the members can yell all they want. This is about the people back home that I represent that are struggling. It's about rural Saskatchewan as well. There's many people in social housing that gives them an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to live and provide for their family. They're trying their best. They are.

But when we see taxpayers' dollars . . . And you know, if we want to get into it, we've seen the lean. We've got millions for lean. It's amazing what this government will do, what they're willing to do with hard-earned taxpayers' dollars, Mr. Speaker, hard-earned.

And we see what they're doing. And we see the condition that seniors are being treated in. And how many families have been to this, and continue to come, letting us know their concerns? So when you're taking our taxpayers' dollars . . . And you can introduce legislation, and that's the role. And you know, my colleagues have talked about some of the legislation, and I think they've talked about one-pagers. And they were hoping, they were hoping that there'd be more.

So I'm hoping at the end of the day when we get through this bill that government on both sides are willing to say, you know what, we didn't do everything right, and we're going to correct this for the people who are in social housing, for seniors who are struggling. We're going to correct some of this bill. And here, you know, we introduce some legislation, maybe we can look at some of these things. Maybe we'll consult the homeowners, the people that felt in their mind — and felt strongly, strongly — that they were not consulted. They didn't notice about the changes. The government just comes in and say rents are going up, cost of living is going up, everything else.

This government has had record revenue, billions and billions more than any government per year to spend. And what do they do? What's their record? Well, we see the frustration with people. We see people being kicked out of their homes because they can't afford to pay the utilities, buy their groceries. So having said that, Mr. Speaker, that's the frustration we're seeing. And a government with so many members — 49 members on that side of the House, you know, sitting — some of them want to heckle. That's good. Let them heckle. That's okay. This is about serious stuff that's going on. Serious things that are happening to people back home, struggling to make ends meet, whether it's a grandma, grandpa, a mushroom, a kohkom, whether it's 10 people living in a house, whether it's four or five families struggling to make ends meet.

But you know, here's the provisions. This government has provisions. You know, they're trying to put this in, and we're going to have to go through, I know, go through the process, find out exactly how this will impact people back home. Landlords are going to get some provisions in there, and they're talking about it. And we'll go through those as we talk about the budget. I wanted to just let the members know, and for those listening in, here's a government that I talked about, has record revenue.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear.

Mr. Vermette: — More money. Yes, hear, hear, but look at the way, look at the way they're handling it. Look at our seniors, how our seniors in long-term care are being treated. They can spend \$40 million on lean. How is it that they can spend all this money on lean but not on front-line workers who are working hard, doing an excellent job, trying their best? And how frustrated they are. But this government says no, put the blinders on. They're being told what to say. Don't say anything back there. Just do what we tell you. You stick to the script that we're giving you and you'll be okay. Don't go veer off. So that's fine.

So they can heckle all they want, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, it's about people back home in this province who are very hard-working men and women, families, seniors struggling. So when we look at the issues facing many in Saskatchewan . . . And you know, we talk about this: where credit is due, you want to give credit to the industry, to business, where people are doing well. We want them to do well.

And I think about some of the challenges. And I've talked about this, you know, I think about some of the communities that can't even . . . They're struggling to provide fuel for their community. They're struggling to have groceries, nutritious food for their children. And government says, well you know what? Whose fault is that? Well you know what? The reason why those individuals can't, it's exactly, it's bills like this that are going to give more powers to landlords. To what? Evict more of these social programs?

And they talk about housing and, you know, the social, and they want to remove that wording from here, social housing. Well why is that? They want to give certain powers to who? So you can evict people more. You don't want to call it social. I don't know what's wrong with social housing and the wording, and they want to take it out. So they can sit here and, you know, they can heckle all they want, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day it is about what programs work for Saskatchewan families.

And we think about the RPO program, the rental purchase option program. We have served petition after petition. People have said, would you please . . . The government in 2012 cancelled that program. That program helped many people buy, purchase their homes. So they rented for many years and, you know, there was an opportunity for them to look at that. Why would you turn your back? But you know, with this government they give other . . . And entrepreneurs are great. Where there's a market, that's great. And you have industry and you have the private sector. Okay, it works great. But in some of the isolated communities where you have no developer who wants to develop for whatever reason, there is no market there so they don't choose. They go where there's opportunity. I understand that; from a business sense that makes sense.

But you know, from a social program, you have some communities that the only opportunity and, to be honest, the only opportunity for them to rent a house is from social housing, the housing authorities, whether it's La Ronge. There's many of them. You know, we have how many housing authorities in the province? Whether it's Creighton Housing Authority, La Ronge, they look after a large area.

And those individuals, you know, they have workers. And you know, you watch them. They do a great job. They try their best. Even their budgets, you look at their budgets. They used to do maintenance. Their budgets have been cut. Why would you cut at a time where you should be making sure that the houses are in good shape?

If they're requesting . . . Think about it. Somebody who's a senior and they're in a wheelchair or somebody who's a family member and that's the only property that they have is to rent, they need a, you know, we'll say a . . . not in the sense of a step. They're in a wheelchair, and they have to have the ramp into the home, so they need a ramp built. Do they have to go to a special fund to get that? Well they've taken away any ability for the housing to do that. Now they have to apply. They used to give them money. And I think it's a good thing to look at.

[19:15]

So social housing, the way we know it, has been attacked by this government, the RPO program where the renter could own that home after so many years of renting. And I know I helped individuals who went ahead and did that. They applied and they went ahead, forward, and they applied, and they're homeowners today. They're very proud homeowners. And we have a lot of them in La Ronge. And I know individuals in La Ronge on that same program who actually purchased their home, and it's their home now. They're very proud homeowners. They just like the neighbourhood. They fit in. They're good. They take care of their property. They do the maintenance and they're very happy. People are happy.

So here you have a government who has no problem with attacking, like I said, working families, expecting them to pay more — utilities, groceries. When you go to a government and you hear about how great this province is doing, how great the province is doing, we're happy for that. And you hear people say that. But so many of them are saying, we're not feeling it, Doyle. We're struggling. We're struggling to put food on the table. We're struggling to clothe our children. We're struggling to pay the rent.

Seniors deciding . . . And I've met with many seniors. They're struggling. Which way is it? Do I buy my medication? Do I pay for my medication? Do I buy groceries? My utilities? Pay my rent? And then the government wants more from them. And they're saying their medical transportation, they can't afford it.

And you know, when they send letters to government and to the minister, what do they get told? Well you choose to live there. It was your choice, your decision to stay there. Well this is their home. This is where many of them have children, grandchildren, and they want to stay there.

So here's a housing situation where they want to introduce legislation, Mr. Speaker, and they want to make changes. I'm hoping that the government will make some of these changes, that they'll say, you know what? We made some mistakes, but we're going to take ownership of it. We're going to lower the rents. The 30 per cent is too much. The cost of living is too high. We're going to change that. We're going to reverse that. We're going to not give so much power to landlords. We're going to make sure we consult with tenants. We're going to talk

with individuals before we introduce legislation like this that will impact.

And then this Bill 150, before we bring in legislation and we make too big of changes, we're going to consult with tenants. We're going to go out to those living in social housing and actually see, how are they doing and how will this impact them? And you can also go to residents in Regina. Saskatoon's a bigger centre. You can also go to a rural area. You could find out. If the government wanted to do this, the government could go out and they could actually see how this will impact renters. And will this give the strength more to landlords for evictions?

And they talk about going into some of the homes. If they want to show an apartment, you know, the landlord can just show up. Before, my understanding . . . And we'll clarify this. More of my colleagues have more to say, but we'll clarify this. We'll clarify. We'll clarify this, Mr. Speaker. You know, do they have to give a 24-hour notice or can they just . . . They're going to walk into an apartment that someone's renting without giving 24-hour notice or whatever it is, and just go in and show the apartment or the home without the renters knowing this.

Now who's asked for this? You know, was it the tenants? Was it the landlord? Why is the government moving on it? Shouldn't you give notice to somebody if they are renting it? And the provision if, you know . . . And they talk about some of the other things that are in here.

And we'll get into that, but for now I wanted to talk about that one area where somebody who pays their rent, they pay their rent, and maybe they've given notice that they're leaving. And that's fine. I understand that. This provision in here . . . And the government's going to go down their list, and they're going to say, well give more . . . To me it looks like more power to the landlord.

Now if you look at this legislation also — and I know we're going to talk about it; we're going to have lots of time to discuss this in committee, and my colleagues will share more discussion — but there used to be a 30-day clause for eviction because you're renovating or I guess you're deciding to do something different with the property. Now they're going to give them a number of more days. Is the notice more days to get out or is it going to be less? Which is it? And we're going to work through that, and we'll ask the minister how's it going to be, and in committee. Will it be less days? More days? Are they willing to have an amendment in here? And maybe there's a provision in here where they'll say, well we could make it 90 days, 120 days.

And then, you know, they talk about if you have issues with the idea of this, there is going to be a provision in here that they're talking about, going to the officer of the rentals tenancy agency who will, if you're unhappy with I guess a ruling or with what the landlord's doing and you're not happy, then, from my understanding of this bill, you will go and you will have an opportunity to have a hearing before the tenants relations officer. Now, is that binding? Does that mean . . . And they talk about if a landlord has been . . . breached something or has not followed, then they can actually give a punishment. We don't know what that punishment is.

I know in committee and I know we're going to have lots of questions, but there's a lot of issues facing right now with affordability, the cost of living, that some are wondering, who's asked for this legislation? Who's asked for these changes? Is it the landlord? And who all did they consult? We've talked about that. And is there an opportunity for this government with their terrible track record when it comes to residents in this province?

They didn't want to support a number of different initiatives. And I know the member and our critic, you know, has been asking for, when it comes to housing, has been asking for the government to bring in. And they do not want to support or work with them. And we said, we'll work with you. We'll work. The opposition will work with government to make sure residents and tenants are protected, whether it's rent controls, whether you're going to have some type of mechanism that gives some protection. And I know, you know, government didn't want to do certain things. They want to go in other areas. Well while they're doing that and they're talking about it, people are being impacted greatly and struggling. And I've listened to some of the seniors and some of the . . . [inaudible].

So when we look at some of the changes that they're bringing in and the changes they want to make, it's impacting many people. And I hope they've done the work that they need to do, that they're consulting with not only landlords. And let's make sure. There are some good landlords out there. For sure there is. We know that. But there's also residents saying and tenants saying they're not happy with the way landlords have treated them and have dealt with them. So there, you know, the argument goes both ways, and I understand that.

But we have to make sure as a government that those legislation regulations protecting tenants, protecting landlords, we realize it has to be a balance. And you hope that is and you want to be fair. But you have to make sure you're consulting with them, and you have to make sure you're going out and actually going out and trying to reach out to as many tenants as you can that are impacted by legislation. Try to do what you can.

And I mean a government has this, their record on many issues, on many fronts. This government doesn't like to consult. It likes to ram legislation that it wants, and it doesn't matter who it'll affect. Even if somebody does voice their concern, you know, they bully them. They don't follow letters. And I've seen some of the letters that have been sent to them on different issues when it comes to government to say, truly, that are you going to consult?

So having said that, we've seen this government doesn't like to consult. They don't like to spend the time and do their due diligence to make sure that both sides of the argument and those issues are being heard. This government's track record is very poor when it comes to consulting First Nations, Métis, and other people when legislation is being passed. They just ram everything they want. If it's their idea, it's what they want. They go ahead and they push it.

Well our job is to make sure, at the end of the day, we hold this government . . . And you have the process that's here today, but you also have the opportunity in committee to ask questions. We have the opportunity to talk to many people and ask them to bring their concerns forward and to let the members opposite

know as well. If there's issues, legislation coming in that affects them, by all means talk to both sides so we can work together because sometimes it means working together on legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know I could go on about some of the other challenges many families are facing when it comes to affordability, paying utilities, paying groceries. We've talked about a lot, seniors struggling with rents, and then this government taking the wording out of your social housing and stuff, and we're not sure where they're going to go. And I know my colleagues, and we will have lots of questions. We're going to get information and we'll bring that to committee. And we can ask, we can ask many of those questions of what's going on and exactly why these changes are being introduced and who will benefit from them. So we see some of the challenges that are facing Saskatchewan residents.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on Bill 150. I know in committee we will go ahead and we will ask some tough questions. My colleagues will continue to be in debate, and we will ask some questions in committee and get the clarification for those out there that need that clarification and want to know why this bill is coming into effect.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn debate on Bill 150, *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise tonight and enter into the debate on Bill No. 151, *An Act to amend The Pharmacy Act, 1996 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. And I think this is an important piece of legislation. Whenever we talk about professional regulations and this type of thing, it's a key thing that we talk about what those professionals can and cannot do and how they conduct their businesses in terms of dealing with complaints and how they discipline themselves, all of that kind of thing.

And so we see an expansion here of this profession to include pharmacist technicians and that type of thing, and they're now allowed to prescribe and administer vaccines. And I don't know how many of the folks here got their flu vaccine. I went to get mine, and it was at Prairieland exhibition, and it was quite the thing. Actually it was interesting how many people are taking that so much more seriously now.

I know when we talk about different diseases and how they can wreak havoc in public health, we only have to watch the news and we can see when we're not prepared or we don't have the proper resources. And it can happen here in Canada. We saw it in Toronto with SARS [severe acute respiratory syndrome], but we also saw it, and we're seeing it as we speak in Africa with Ebola. Clearly our medical professions are very, very important, and pharmacists clearly are.

And I can speak . . . You know, as we all age, we tend to get to know our pharmacists a little bit better for a whole host of different reasons, and I can tell you that I feel really good about the people who help me out on a regular basis. They know who I am and they give me great advice, and I feel that they really take their work very seriously. It's an honourable profession, and it's one that goes way back in history, and it has a whole lot of roots. I know that we think of . . . And particularly in this kind of legislation, we're not talking about necessarily herbalists or those types of folks, even though they have an awful lot to offer too. But these are more the university trained, the ones who are dealing with the prescriptions from doctors.

But you know, I have to say that it was interesting. When we were in Cuba on the last winter holiday, we stopped in at a museum of a pharmacist and very . . . You know, the history of pharmaceuticals and the important role that they play in our communities is quite something else. Clearly someone who can stop the pain has a huge place in our society. We respect them dearly, and we want them to be treated well, but when things go wrong, we are also pretty snarly about the whole thing because we're in pretty bad moods about our particular health.

And so when we have this kind of thing happening, we are very interested. And we see, you know, an expansion of this whole issue of the professions and how they are mandated to look after themselves. And I know as we look across the whole realm, I think of, in social services, the whole issue around social workers and the use of their name. They need a little work there. We think this is something that the government should be paying attention to, but here they're much more, much more protective, and that's a good thing.

I'm just going to take a minute to review the minister's remarks. He talks about how he recognizes the important role pharmacists play within the whole issue of health and delivering good health services to the public and how they play an important part, working on their full scope of practice within a collaborative team, and that's huge. And now we're expanding that to talk about pharmaceutical pharmacist technicians, and that's important. Talk about the full skill and making sure that they're using their training to its full limit, particularly in rural areas where pharmacies may be open longer hours than medical clinics or more easily accessed. And that's true.

[19:30]

And we see that because quite often, you know, in the past you would have a drugstore and that would be where the pharmacist would work out of. It was their own store. But quite often now we see them partnered up with a bit of a convenience store. Or you even see to the extent of London Drugs, which is a full on, almost equivalent to a department store what I would be familiar with in the old days of the department store. I mean

you can buy almost anything at London Drugs, but it started out as a drugstore.

So this is important that we take a look at how do we modernize the language. So this talks about allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines and drugs such as flu shot and vitamin B₁₂, and order, access, and use lab tests, working in collaboration with a physician. And that makes a lot of sense in a province such as ours that has issues of access to medical services, whether they be in the Far North, whether they be in rural Saskatchewan, and I think this is an important thing.

And so the whole issue though really is to make sure that they are done well and that they're safe, and there's a process of moving it forward. So they're changing the name of the legislation to *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*. Thinking that it's a better clarification for regulating two separate pharmacy professions — the pharmacist and the pharmacy technicians — and clarifying the terminology around the pharmacy ownership.

And as well, our goal is to provide leadership. It talks about that kind of thing, another example about how they're putting the patient first. That may be what they think they do, but clearly, you know, we see other evidence. And that evidence is brought forward every day during question period about how we don't think they're really doing that, and so they put that plug in. I'm not sure if it fits in there, because clearly that is something that we have some questions about. We will question them every day on that.

I do want to say as I was reading the Act, that there was a whole issue of fines. And fines now will go from 5,000 to 100,000, and as well from 15,000 to 100,000. And I'm just wondering how that fits into the Canadian landscape with other pharmacists and penalties. What is the landscape across Canada in terms of fines for pharmacists who break their regulations, whether they be public law or I assume an offence within their own profession? So we need to understand that more fully.

But we do think that it's important that professionals take their work seriously, and if there's a breach of conduct, that they're not doing their work appropriately. And we all know that particularly when it comes to pharmacists and the kind of things that are involved, that if there are errors made, if there are errors made, that there should be significant consequences.

And you know what I'm thinking of this stuff that we're seeing in Ottawa today and yesterday around thalidomide babies that were born 54 years ago, the impact that's having of 94 people who were born without limbs, and how when pharmacists or the pharmacy industry can go so wrong, can go so wrong, and yet we have not taken full responsibility.

I don't know if folks are following this discussion in Ottawa, but it's one that we should pay attention to in Saskatchewan here because we have a situation where there's 94 people who have survived to this stage of 54 years, and I think this is really, really an important thing. And we need to see the Canadian government step up. I don't know if the provincial government has a role in this, but we think that there's clearly a situation where regulations, if they go wrong, have dire consequences.

And ironically, Mr. Speaker, in the United States, they had no babies born because of that serious situation because it was a Canadian who was working at the federal drug agency in Washington who stopped that process of approving the drug in question. And therefore Americans have no experience with what we have in Canada or Europe. And so I would hope that in Ottawa they take this very seriously and they address this issue quickly, because there's less than 94 people, or there's 94 folks who are still alive with the condition. They are 54 years old now. And because it all happened very, very quickly in one period of time and the fact that many of their parents have passed away, and the question is, who will protect these folks or help them when they grow older into their senior years?

It's a miracle and it's a wonderful thing that they've been able to live, and particularly full lives, but the fact for many of them, but the fact is that when we need to . . . We need to take pharmaceuticals very seriously. And so we are appreciative. And so we'll have more questions around the fines and that type of thing.

I did want to say, and I just wanted to draw attention to, again, around the whole thing about protection of title and how that's very, very important. But I do have questions because, as I said in Social Services where the protection of the title, social worker, is not so adhered to, and that has extreme consequences or dire consequences as well. So we'll be having questions about that, because the government right across the board, whether you're a social worker or a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician, there should be a seriousness towards the title, the title of work. And it seems to be applied unevenly across the professions here in Saskatchewan.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that others will want to get into this discussion around the pharmacy Act and the implications of that. It's one that has a lot of interest, and particularly, what are the unintended consequences? As I said, and when I'm just thinking now that when the fines, potential for fines go from 5,000 to 100,000, I hope that we're not seeing an increase in fees for prescriptions that cover for any problems in that area. We hope that's not an unintended consequence for us here in our province.

So it'll be interesting to see how that plays out. It'll be interesting to know how many fines are or have been applied across the province. I know I did read of several drugstores that were charged, I think a year ago, around some infractions. And so it's not unheard of, but it is one that we should be taking very seriously for sure. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that others will want to get into debate on other bills as well, and we have a list before us for tonight. So I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 151, *An Act to amend The Pharmacy Act, 1996 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. Thank you very much.

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 Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014*. I know the great work that our universities in the province does, and government is bringing forward some changes. And I know there was already . . . in 2012 they introduced legislation authorizing some of the institutes would have to go through a process if they wanted to offer the program and offer degree programs. And some of them obviously went ahead with that. Some of them have a provision in here that they go through a process.

But I want to give credit to the University of Regina and Saskatoon. I know they work hard in northern Saskatchewan as well. In many ways they partnership with NORTEP [northern teacher education program] program, also Northlands College. So there is opportunity, and I know they have that partnership and a working relationship, and it works very well for both institutes. And I know they come to the North and when they offer programs and they work together, you see many of the professors and the profs coming into La Ronge. And they do the classes that they need to do and make sure that they share the information.

But also I think sometimes it gives them an opportunity to see some of the culture. That's very important for them to see and experience some of the way of life, and I think some of the challenges that some of our far North . . . our rural, our isolated communities, some of those challenges that students face. And they get a chance to see that right there and I think it gives them a good working relationship with not only the institutes that they're . . . NORTEP, Northlands, but also with the students, with the faculty.

So there is a lot of work with the board. Even in itself, I know the board's always working co-operatively. So there are some good things going on in both the University of Regina and Saskatchewan and they do some great partnerships in northern Saskatchewan. But I think also that they reach out where they can partnership in the other universities and the other institutes. The University of Saskatchewan, Regina, I think work together.

But having said that, in this bill, this is giving institutes the opportunity to have the degree program and to offer a degree so that they are competitive I guess in the international markets. And they refer to some of that. And students that come here, they have an opportunity to offer . . . And I guess many of the institutes that are out there can at least apply.

There is a provision for them. They have to go through a review process. They have to make sure they meet the criteria, because they want to set a very high standard to making sure that those students that come from out of Canada, whether they're in Saskatchewan, out of province, that those programs that they're offering have a certain standard and, you know, that they know

the quality of the program that they're putting out, and the degree that one gets, you know, really is out there and is respected. And I think Saskatchewan does an excellent job of that.

But there is opportunity for other institutes to take part in this partnership and to take part in this process, and that's what this bill is introducing. And I know that the minister in his comments talked about some of that areas and where they're going to continue to work.

And there was about four of them that had that opportunity in 2000 to work on that. And if the government was happy, from my understanding, looking at what was going on, if they meet, they would encourage that in a grandfathering provision. And I guess if they meet the criteria and the ministry is happy with them, then I'd just have to assume — and I guess we can even ask some of these questions in committee — but I'm assuming those ones that were grandfathered in are fine. There's about four of them I think they mentioned.

But the other institutes that are out there that can apply. And there's many institutes that we have in our province doing great work, helping in the post-secondary education of many. Not only is it important to give a good K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education. But if you, you know, have I guess the finances, the supports, if you have what it takes to further on, and if this is a desire you want and you want to do better for your family, you can do that. And this provides that opportunity for some post-secondary students to do that.

So really I think overall I don't have a lot more to say on this. I know in committee . . . And I know moving this forward gives some institutes an opportunity if they want to apply, if they want to go through the review process, if they meet all the criteria that's asked of them, then they can go ahead. They can be approved and they can have that degree authorization to do that.

I think some of them will take advantage of it. I hope many of them do because we have many good institutes doing great work for many students in our province. We see champions and role models coming out of these programs of post-secondary. And we're very proud of many of those students, and they continue. They pay great dividends back into the government coffers because those individuals get jobs and they pay taxes and they allow that.

[19:45]

But remember this, when they pay those taxes and they give them into the government coffers, they want the government to take good care of those taxes because it's their hard-earned tax dollars that they give to the government. And government some days doesn't always show that they're doing the best with those. Many of us from this side of the House remind the government when we're hearing it, people share that with us, that government needs to make sure they're taking good care of tax dollars that people earn with a program like this, that people go to post-secondary. They want to make sure this government's held to a high standard to take care of the dollars, hard-earned dollars that people earn, they want to be taken care of.

So at that time, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any more comments. I know we will have more questions in committee and I know my colleagues will have more opportunities to debate this bill. So at this time I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this bill.

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 member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise tonight to enter into this debate on Bill No. 148, *An Act to amend The Vital Statistics Act, 2009*.

And this is a very significant piece of legislation. It's one that, you know, has really . . . It's interesting when you become a politician, some things you don't think an awful lot of before, but all of a sudden they become very, very important. And this is one: vital statistics. It becomes obvious when you use the word vital. These are our vital numbers and how do we keep track of our people in our province, our country.

And it's one that, on a personal note, as a new grandfather of two grandchildren, clearly birth certificates and births are very, very important. And we've been talking a lot about this in our family, having one child born in Quebec under the civil code and one born in Ontario under laws very similar to Saskatchewan, but not quite. And I'll talk more about that later on, because we have our own unique anomalies here in Saskatchewan.

But I understand the intent of this bill is to modernize and to recognize the unique challenges we have in Saskatchewan. And that's fair enough; that's always a good reason for amending our legislation. But there are other challenges we have that I think *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act* neglects and could address. And at some point we're going to have to have the discussion about these issues, and I will get to that in a moment. But I do want to say that it is an interesting issue that I think, well I know we all have experienced because we all have birth certificates. And this is something that we experience, whether it's how we name our children . . .

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, and I think I've told this story in this House before, our oldest daughter who is now 34 years old, born in 1980, was named after my Uncle Cameron. In 1980 it was not common to name a female with a male name. For some reason, this upset a bureaucrat in the Department of Health, and refused to acknowledge that she could possibly be

female. We had the birth certificate, the registration, rejected two or three times, and finally the bureaucrat said, you must have that child examined by a doctor to prove that she is in fact female. What female would have a name Cameron? So we did actually go, I think she was three or four years old. This debate was going on many years because they could not accept the fact that a child had a male name.

And I think of today, where we see the whole wide range of names of children, the whole wide range of names. And nobody would think to question a parent about, well that's a boy's name; you must use that for a boy. Or that's a girl's name and that's only for girls. That is just so inappropriate now, but back in 1980, it was this bureaucrat . . . And I don't know who it was, but clearly, in the Health department, felt they had the power to say that name — now I can't use my name because we're in the House — is inappropriate and you must do something about it.

So that was our experience. That was our first experience with vital statistics. Interestingly now, what's happening with my daughter, the same daughter who caused that kerfuffle in 1980, here we are, fast-forward to 2014. She wants to name her daughter Felix Rose Martin, which is not my last name but my wife's last name, but not my daughter's last name. So in Quebec, you have to establish that . . . The child's name can only be the name of the mother or father, and that's it. Or if there's a hyphenated name it can be one of the hyphenated names. Now interestingly all our children are named Martin-Forbes so she's trying to make a case.

And we have just recently found out from Saskatchewan that it's inconclusive to what my daughter's last name really is, because is it Martin-Forbes or is it Forbes? They won't say. And so that does actually leave my daughter an opening to say, well her last name is Martin-Forbes, which is fine with me because our other two children have the same scenario. But this goes to show and illustrate how important it is to have clarity on the legislation and on the regulations and what this could possibly mean.

Now I have to tell you, as a grandfather, Mr. Speaker, I am a little concerned because, as you know, around the world children go missing all the time. And one of the quick ways of finding out who the child is, if you have a last name that makes sense with the two adults who are travelling with that child, that clears up a lot of confusion if everybody has at least one of the last names. When you have three last names, you're creating a bit of a problem. But this is the world we live in, and these are the challenges we have. And so we try to simplify things.

But my point is that we need clarity and we need to be able to make things work. But we need to have rules that work and work quickly. And so if this is one of the things that this bill does talk about, using electronic signatures and documents and transactions, so things can move a lot quicker so there can be that clarity. So it's very, very important that we can make sure that these important events are tracked properly — birth certificates and that type of thing. And so we have a lot of interest in this.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say though, and I'm just going to take a minute to review the minister's comments here.

So when he talks about *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*, he talks about modernizing the vital statistics but maintain the original principles of the original legislation.

Now it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, I've had the library take a look at some of the original documents going back to 1909 about our legislation and what that means because there's a couple of points that I want to make about the changes that are coming up in human rights. And we need to have a conversation about those kind of challenges. And he talks about recognizing today's world as different from 2009 when the first statistics Act was first introduced.

Now it's interesting, the world has changed and there will be challenges, and I will talk a little about that in a while here. And he talks about making it easier for people to receive timely access to vital event documents. And he's talking about a few that they have and these came through with the consultations with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, nurse practitioners, and the SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association].

Now interestingly, if it was limited to that, there's a few groups out there that have things to say about vital statistics. And that's really, really important that we allow the public to have some input into these bills because, you know, it is the public, as I was talking about my own daughter. We all have experience with vital statistics, and we need to be able to have input into what needs to be part of those vital statistics.

Now he talks about using . . . a physician can only sign a medical certificate for death. But now because it poses a challenge for rural and northern communities where there may not be a local physician, that in fact they may want to use a nurse or a nurse practitioner that may in fact speed things up, and this is very, very important how they can work with that. So talking about unique circumstances.

He talked about for example, the missing children's project and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada requested the death information of Aboriginal children who attended residential schools, but we couldn't provide that information after the year of 1945 which is really, really unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about two particular circumstances where I think that we will have questions and what can we do to make things better in terms of vital statistics and using this legislation as a vehicle to help out people who need better access to services in Saskatchewan.

And the first is around just proper ID [identification]. And we know that we see challenges and that can be a whole range of services, whether that's banking or whether that's voting. And we know that continues to become an issue that we need to have appropriate mechanisms to make sure that there's no voter fraud, but at the same time that it's not a limitation because there's not ID available. So here when we talk about the costs of birth certificates and the implication that has for people to access ID, that it may in fact be a limitation.

And I know that that's a limitation for many folks in my riding that in fact they've raised this concern, both federally and provincially, because of the rise of the issue around voter ID.

And this is something that's come, and we know for example the American Legislative Exchange Council, and this is often known as ALEC, talked about things that can help conservative legislatures impose model legislation.

One of the things that they did do is they talked about how can we have harsher voter ID laws and related voter suppression initiatives, and in fact we could see that happening in America. And I hope in many ways — and we have and we've passed legislation — but we hope that the interpretive of that legislation will go a long way to in fact reverse that so we have voter engagement and not voter suppression. And vital statistics can help out with that by making ID more accessible to people who have traditionally not had ID or if they don't have ID or if it's that cost is a barrier, that we can work with that to make sure people can have or can receive their ID.

So it all starts with vital statistics and making sure that it's appropriate and easily accessible. And if we're talking about electronic documents, then how can we make sure that happens in terms of allowing people to vote.

The other issue that I want to talk about — and this is the reason that I did start this research, and I started it back last March — was around the whole issue of gender markers. And actually it's interesting because quite often on your birth certificate it will say what sex you have, and probably the more appropriate term would be what gender you identify with. And I know that, and as recently as yesterday I raised this in a member's statement around transgender rights, both in terms of identity and expression. And we're seeing a move across Canada where both in Ontario, BC [British Columbia], and Alberta, and interestingly as conservative as Alberta is, that they've modified their approach to vital statistics and the idea of gender markers. And how do we approach that when we are thinking of human rights?

[20:00]

But I just thought this might be interesting for the folks here or maybe at home, about when I asked the folks in our library . . . And I just want to give a hats off and a very deep thank you to the folks in the reference unit at the Legislative Library because I asked them about, how have birth certificates evolved over the last 100 years in Canada? Because we often think that they're all the same now as they were 100 years ago, and that's not the case at all. Not the case at all.

And in fact I wanted to know because somebody said to me, well you know in some provinces in Canada, you still have to identify what race. They ask what race you are or you belong to. And if anybody's interested in that, I will get to that. But the folks were very good at going through all 13 provinces and territories, finding out what are the requirements on the birth certificate and when was race removed from the birth certificate.

So Alberta did ask for race, but it was removed after 1942. British Columbia had asked for it, but it was removed in the 1950s. Manitoba was 1968 that it was removed. Newfoundland we had not heard back from, and of course it became part of Canada in 1949, I believe it was.

Nova Scotia, this is the one that's interesting. The current regulation, 1973, still lists race for the registration form. So whether they use it or not, I'm not sure, but it's in the regulations that they do. Nunavut, race was never included. Prince Edward Island, never included. Ontario was 1960.

Quebec, race was never included. But the interesting thing with Quebec, because the church was so involved . . . In fact actually they, for many years up to just recent times, had looked after, the church had looked after, the Catholic church looked after the vital statistics. In Saskatchewan race was removed from birth certificates in 1974.

So very interesting in terms of when race was actually removed. And so I want to thank the folks in the research area for their very good work on that because we wanted to know when things were removed from the birth certificate.

And you can find that it's actually surprising that in Saskatchewan, when I was born, we were still identifying what race. In fact many of the people here, when they were born, one of the questions on your birth certificate would have been, what race do you identify with or do your parents identify with?

Now interestingly — and I do have a copy of the 1909 birth certificate with me, Mr. Speaker — some of the questions that they asked are very interesting. And of course they do the nearest thing. They do the obvious questions: place of birth; nearest post office; Christian name, if any, and surname; native country of father; native country of mother. They don't ask for nationality at that point, so just a very simple, straightforward birth certificate at the time.

Of course and I can remember, many of the seniors when I was growing up in Mortlach, actually they were very proud of their birth certificate because for them, they were born in the North-West Territories. And so anybody who is over 65 back in the '60s could have said that they were born in the territories, and they were very proud of that.

So in 1954 we changed our birth certificates and, interestingly, here are the questions. For the father: the name, the residence, citizenship — but that was all about whether you were a Canadian or not — but racial origin. And the notes that went with it say, racial origin is defined in terms of the people or race to which the person traced through the father belongs, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. The terms Canadian or American should not be used as a race origin as they express citizenship. And they go through the same thing with mother and talking about the citizenship, racial origin, and then talking about occupation and that type of thing. And so it was very interesting to see what were the questions that people were looking for.

And then here, and I apologize if I offend anyone here, but this is the questions in 1954 when the registration for an Aboriginal person was registration of a live birth of an Indian. And this is the whole question for that, and of course band or tribe to which the mother belongs, and that was in 1954. So we've come a long way from that time. And that lasted until 1966 where the changes came into play, but still they had racial origin. But from what I could tell, they had done away with the registration for an Aboriginal person. That was not separate as it was in the

'50s. And so it's very interesting when you take a look at what people felt was important information.

And then again in 1974, this is where we get into . . . We don't have race anymore on the birth certificate. But there were other interesting questions about in terms of, you know, for some reason in 1974 they were very curious about the medical history of the mom and the duration of pregnancy, which had not been asked earlier, the number of children ever born to this mother, number of live born and number of stillborn. Are the parents married to each other? Yes or no? Are the parents not married to each other? State whether the mother is married, widowed, or divorced, but doesn't reference the father as any kind of responsibility for that. And so that's interesting of what our world was thinking about in the 1970s and that wasn't the issues prior to that.

So this is interesting in terms of how we evolve, but the reason I bring this up, Mr. Speaker, is to make the case, as the minister made, that things change. He was reflecting back to only 2009. I went back a little further than that. But I think that as we know and we've raised this issue, and it's one that has been raised on the legislative steps . . . It's been one. And I know the minister has been written to and we heard questions about this in the media last spring. When we talk about transgender folks and gender variant children, how do we deal with that in terms of vital statistics?

Because there's two issues that we're really dealing with when we come to trans issues. We're talking about human rights and the right for gender identity and gender expression and how important that is, but that's a human rights . . . That's within the domain of the Human Rights Commission, and we are hopeful that this government will make the necessary changes in due course. We hope that's sooner than later. But we know that the point has been made very clear that there's not clarity in the Act. There's not clarity in the Act about that.

But the other one that's really started to emerge last spring was the whole issue about transgender people and their ability to change birth certificates and because, when they went through surgery, going from male to female or female to male, the necessary proof was for a doctor to say that in fact the surgery had occurred, that in fact the person who wanted to change the birth certificate was in fact biologically now the gender they identify with.

But there were issues that came up, both in terms of whether a person could go through the surgery, whether they were healthy enough to undergo the necessary surgery, or whether they could afford the surgery because of their own personal means. In fact we see Ontario now has changed the requirements where, if they have the support of a psychologist and support of the necessary medical people to say that in fact this person identifies as one gender that biologically they are not, that in fact they will do the necessary change on the birth certificate.

And this is a big discussion that I think we need to have here in Saskatchewan. We see them having that in Ontario, changing it. We see they're having that discussion in BC. We see in Alberta. Actually we've seen several occasions where this has happened. And on one hand it may seem to be one that is not straightforward. We understand that. We get that. That's why

we need to have that conversation and one that asks us to really be thinking forward and be acknowledging that people do have rights and that people have unique circumstances, but one that I think that we need to have that conversation. And we need to acknowledge the folks who identify as trans and have these kind of challenges.

And so I raise this tonight just because when we talk about vital statistics and we see the evolution from 1909 to 2014, the world has changed and the world is changing, and I think changing in many ways for better. And as we see that in terms of our own birth certificates where there's been changes, where we see it's no longer appropriate to ask about race of parents or the race of the child — that was an out-of-date, antiquated idea — so we need to have this conversation. And I hope we can have this conversation in the legislature.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I know that others will want to be able to speak to different topics tonight, but I did want to raise this. And I think that it's an important, important issue that we have before us, that folks will want to participate. It's one that challenges us. I know that. I recognize that. But that's our job, is to look at society and say, how can we make this a healthier place for all? And *The Vital Statistics Act* enables us to do that.

We know that this is not a simple thing. We can think of vital statistics in the plural when we think of one million-plus people in this province and they're dealing with all that data. But when you think of people from the other end of the line where they're looking at their own birth certificate, their own, and what that means to them and how that helps them live a full and productive life, whether they can get the vital statistics, whether they can get a birth certificate, they can afford to get it paid and whether you get the ID to vote and participate in society or whether they get an ID that reflects who they really are. That's an important issue too.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, we know we will have a lot of questions in the committee, and I look forward to a full and frank and rigorous discussion with the minister about this. And I want to put some of those comments on record because I know people have come to this House raising those questions, and they have raised them with the Minister of Justice, and it's an important discussion to have.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 148, *An Act to amend The Vital Statistics Act, 2009*. Thank you very much.

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 Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. Just looking at it I don't have a lot, but I just want to . . . They're looking at some changes and I think making some of the rules around providing archives that are protected, whether they're political records or ministerial records, they're going to look at them differently. And someone will determine to, I guess, when they go through the process to determine who will say they are ministerial and which are political records. And some will be kept in different ways.

[20:15]

But going at it, right now you can request from the Archives certain documents but it takes somebody from Archives going through it and making sure there's no personal information when you're requesting these documents to make sure they're kept, I guess, intact, but also you're not revealing someone's, whether it be health records, whatever personal information that might be in Archives, that is not violating someone's privacy by them providing that. So it takes quite a bit of work, from my understanding. I've asked a few people about that and they're saying it takes quite a bit of work to go through that process and it takes time if you're requesting that to go through.

It sounds like some of the changes that are being proposed in here would be that there might be . . . I don't know if it's the agency, and we'll have to clarify that, or the group or if there'll be someone hired by . . . a researcher or something that will go through that and will sign something that says, from my understanding, that they will make sure they don't release any information. So if it's clear, the rules are here. You can have this as long as you go through that process. You make sure that no private information is shared to the public if somebody's requesting it. And that's my understanding is kind of where they're going at it. And I know that in committee we'll have more questions; my colleagues will.

When I was looking at it, basically I guess it gives some stricter rules. It shows whether, like I said, it's either political reports or it's the ministerial records. They'll do some clarification on it and making sure. Because they'll be ones will be kept and you want to ensure for the records that are there. And if it's political ones, it's a different way they're going to deal with them. And I know we'll have more questions in committee and my colleagues will have more to talk about.

So at this point I don't have any further discussion other than when it goes to committee — clarification we can do some research, see who requested this, as I said before. So at this point I have no further comments on it, so I adjourn debate on this.

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.

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 Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 142. This is the consequential amendments Act to the bill that I just talked about and in here, I guess, *The Evidence Act* and *The Education Act* will be . . . They have to make some of the changes so when Act 143 comes into enforcement, it will trigger consequential amendments to *The Education Act* and also *The Evidence Act* so that they're in compliance with the Act. So that's what this change, consequential amendment has, the Act. I think it's basic for schools to give their records and the material to archives, and that's what this outlines.

So at this time, I have no further questions on the consequential amendments Act to this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I adjourn debate on it.

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? 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 member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in briefly here tonight on Bill No. 147, the amendment to *The Class Actions Act*. And certainly any time we're looking through any of the changes that affect our justice system, we need to be looking through a lens of making sure that the changes are fair to all, that they are ensuring access to the legal system, that they're effective in what's being brought forward.

I know some of the changes that are brought forward here today relate directly to the ability for judges to award costs for court proceedings. And I know there's a criteria laid out by the minister in doing so, and that would be whether it's in the public interest, whether the action is a novel point of law, whether the case is a test case, and related also around access to justice. So certainly those seem like important criteria. It'll be our job, our work as the opposition, to consult directly with the legal community, with the bar association, and with the community at large to make sure that these criteria are

appropriate.

One important piece is this subsection (4), which is retroactive or brings retroactivity to this legislation. I'd be interested in what the scope of that is and if there's any specific case or something that government's facing right now that has caused that clause to be put in, that retroactivity.

These are some of the questions that certainly we'll have for the minister moving forward, but right now, at this point in time, I think we're going to be working directly with stakeholders. We know that far too often that government just doesn't care to listen to those directly on the front lines, the stakeholders, when they derive legislation. And as a result of that, in not listening and not working with stakeholders and not consulting, they build legislation far too often that's flawed and doesn't reflect some of the unintended consequences that may be in place. So certainly this bill at first glance seems reasonable. We certainly want to have a better understanding of the retroactivity and what's motivating that change for government, and then just making sure that the criteria that's laid out is as inclusive as it should be. And then looking at it through a lens, any changes to our justice system, making sure that it's accessible, that it's effective, that it's fair for all Saskatchewan people.

But at this point in time I adjourn debate on Bill No. 147, the amendment to *The Class Actions Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 Deputy House Leader.

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I make the motion to adjourn the House this evening.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:22.]

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