



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

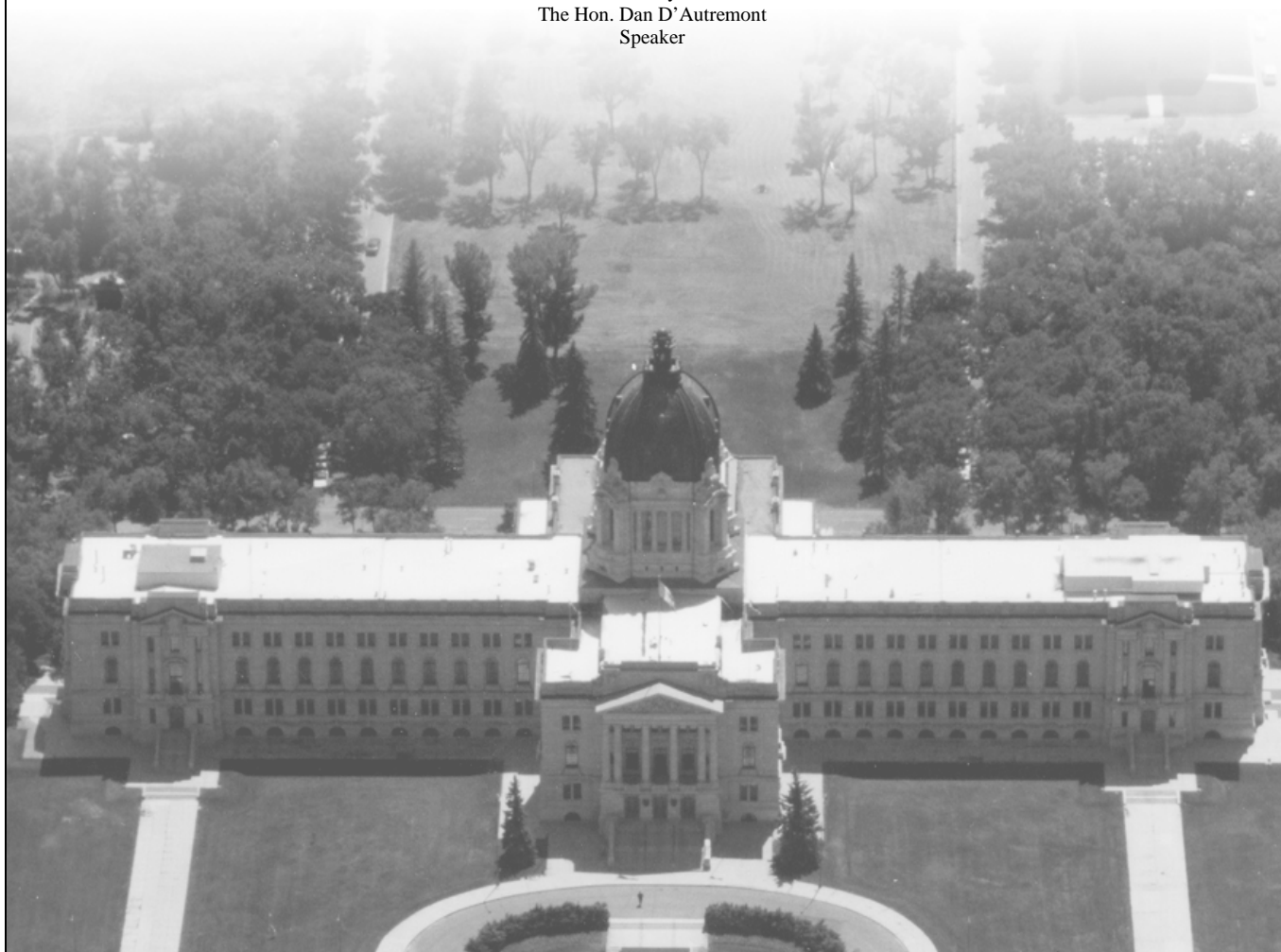
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



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[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

The Speaker: — It now being 7 o'clock, this House resumes.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 162

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 162 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to join debate tonight on Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act*. This is following up on the enormous success of the two years ago introduction of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. I don't know if you'd want to call this one the re-enforcement of money judgments Act, Mr. Speaker, but there you go and here we go again.

Now we're all for continuous improvement. I don't know if it's déjà vu all over again or how this might go, but anyway they brought in some changes two years ago and here we go again.

This particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, again making it easier to collect on those who owe money on their debts, particularly and very important as regards maintenance payments in the case of spousal support. We think that's a good thing. This particular piece of legislation contains amendments allowing for wages to be garnished for a longer period of time, changing the period from one year to two years. It simplifies the process for seizing a bank account. Section 27 makes it easier for sheriffs to seize land being sold by those owing money, and section 30 creates a director of sheriffs, appointed by the minister, who will be developing the new forms for the Act and taking on all other responsibilities to be determined by the minister.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've got a new civil service position devoted to this. I will be interested to see what the status is of that position, whether it's . . . where it is in the planning the stage or if they're ready to hire or that director's just ready to get in there and start enforcing money judgments. I will be interested to see all of that.

But again, Mr. Speaker, this falls on a piece of legislation brought in two years ago, and again as it relates to making it easier to collect on spousal support, it's important. But it's interesting that I guess this being the trajectory we'll, I imagine, see another piece of legislation within a couple years reinforcing the maintenance supports. In terms of the people living outside of the province who have assets in Saskatchewan, it'll be interesting to see how *The Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act*, how that . . . what the incidence of

that is, Mr. Speaker.

Again these are questions that are maybe better addressed at committee, but I know that other of my colleagues have participated in the debate on Bill No. 162, and others are hotly anticipating their turn to have their say on this piece of legislation at this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 163

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 163 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again always good to join debate in this Assembly, take my place and say my piece on Bill No. 163, *An Act to amend The Education Act*.

Now this one's, this one's instructive, Mr. Speaker, as to the manner in which this government has conducted its business, its legislative business, this one right off the top in section 6 allowing the minister to set the beginning of the school year before Labour Day when Labour Day falls on or after September 5th.

Now of course, Mr. Speaker, there are all number of personal digital assistants in this building reinforcing, each one of them having their own calendar function. And you'd think that the calendar would have been something this government had considered bringing forward the initial change to the legislation, having perhaps been swept away by the excitement of an election campaign, Mr. Speaker, where they thought, well here's a great one. We're going to make summer longer, and who wouldn't want that? But as is too often the case with this government, Mr. Speaker, they leapt before they looked, and they didn't check the calendar. As a consequence, we're here again today with a piece of legislation where they're fixing a mistake of their own making.

In a province like Saskatchewan, where there has been that long history of partnership and co-operation with the education sector, with teachers, with trustees looking to the interests of students, you'd have to think that if some of that fundamental work that's been again part of the history and the tradition of the way that we've approached education in this province, if that work had been done in the first place, we wouldn't be here today talking about section no. 6 and this government stepping

forward to replace a mistake that they have made.

That's not the sum total of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, but it's certainly a more salient point in terms of the legislative item I see before us here today. So again, perhaps if they could consult, if they, you know, talk to more people than just themselves in caucus or to themselves at an election rally or with the sector or took a look at what the tradition has been, we wouldn't be here on that particular point. But there you go again, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of section 8, giving school divisions more flexibility when it comes to spending money on schools, housing or other facilities wherein northern school divisions are offering houses to teachers as part of the compensation package, Mr. Speaker, clarifying that aspect of the legislation, fair enough. Again, hardly earth-shaking there, Mr. Speaker.

Section 9, removing the requirement for the board, for individual boards to get a quote on loans before passing resolutions to borrow money. This would seem to aid and abet the hiding of higher interest rates on P3 schools which again, as the auditor pointed out in British Columbia, caused 3.5 per cent more on average in that province.

Again, Mr. Speaker, if they're going to get into impacting the ability of individual boards to borrow or not or how that all works, you'd think that the time would've finally come wherein instead of having the individual school boards go out and borrow money on the private market, after this government took away the access to the local property tax base, you'd think that it would've naturally followed that there should've been some recognition of the economies to be gained by allowing access by individual school boards to the provincial borrowing rate. That situation hasn't been fixed yet by this government and it's certainly not fixed by this, this piece of legislation.

Section no. 3 renaming the Prince of Wales Scholarship Fund as the Education Scholarship Fund, allowing for the inclusion of other scholarships as well as the Prince of Wales. Again, you know, fair enough, Mr. Speaker, but I guess when you've got, when you've got to fix a mistake you've got to have a few other things in the window to distract from the fact that you'd messed up the situation around Labour Day, and you need some things to give you a bit of cover. And as fine as that might be, I tend to think it belongs in that category.

And then a number of changes have been made to the French version of the Act, as the French language capacity of this government continues to grow wherein the "programme d'études à domicile" becomes "programme de scolarisation à domicile." [Translation: "home-based education program."] Again, Mr. Speaker, hardly earth-shattering, but again nice. If you're going to use the French language, best to get it correct. Or changing "élève bénéficiant d'un programme de soutien intensif" becomes "élève à besoins particuliers." [Translation: "pupil with intensive needs."] Again, Mr. Speaker, quoi de faire, quoi de faire? [Translation: what to do, what to do?]

So, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting piece of legislation, a bit of a grab bag, but again in terms of the main point for this piece of legislation, it's to fix a mistake of this government's own making, one that need not have been made if they'd actually

consulted with the sector.

And then the second more salient point is regarding the way that school divisions are forced to go to the private lending institutions, which costs more money which goes to paying interest than if this government, having again removed the access to the property tax base, had seen the thing through and in turn allowed for that preferential borrowing to take place at the rate which the government is able to accomplish.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues are interested to join in the debate, and I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 163, *An Act to amend The Education Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 164

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 164** — *The Health Information Protection 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 tonight and speak on this bill, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014* which has been a long, long time in coming.

I mean, we all can remember various infractions of privacy when it comes to medical records. Perhaps the most grievous was that night on March 25th, 2011 when it was reported in the paper that a dumpster in the south end of Regina was full of thousands of medical records, and the shock that we all had when in that day and age, in this day and age, we're still dealing, dealing with this. And it really is a shame that it's taken this long to get to this point. And then there are people of course that think this bill doesn't go far enough and that we could be doing much more to make sure records are properly tracked and then destroyed when they are no longer in use.

And I think this is an important one. I do have to say though that we appear to be making some significant movements on the privacy issue in the province, but I'm glad to see this here. But I know there's much more that we can be doing in terms of privacy legislation, and we look forward to much more legislation in the months ahead to catch up with the sad attention that this file has been getting over the last few years, not only in terms of health but in terms of labour and workers' comp privacy.

All of these issues all fit together in terms of a mindset of how we approach privacy as a right that citizens have come to expect in today's society, in a society that our privacy's been under attack all the time. Whether it's drones flying around your neighbourhood and wondering who's got that drone, what are

they looking for, or just simple tracking on your Internet with the pop-ups, all these things are happening at an alarming rate and we need to do as much as we can to keep on top of this. This has to be one of the government's foremost priorities in terms of basic rights, that citizens should, and have the right to, expect that we are going to have top-notch health information protection when it comes to privacy.

[19:15]

So what this does, it talks about replacing Sask Health information at work, and does some word tidying up with eHealth. Section 6 allows the minister to appoint someone to take control of records that have been abandoned. Very important. We know that when practices are no longer operating, there's a question mark about what happened to all the files inside and making sure that there's some way of making sure that there's been no abandonment of the files, that there's some control over the records.

Section 8 makes abandoning health records a strict liability, and so it's easier to convict someone of abandoning records. And it also makes snooping an offence to protect people who have their privacy breached by unnecessary searches into their personal information. And we hear of stories of that and we want to make sure that what people have, not only when it comes to health information, there's a real difference between need to know and like to know. Sometimes people feel like, I'd like to know this because it would be helpful. And maybe it would be helpful. But what do you really need to know? What do you really need to know?

And so we think that we have many questions about this piece of legislation and we'll have questions in committee about this. It's one that was, I said, when we think about the landscape out there in terms of privacy and issues in the privacy world, there are many, many areas that we have to be turning our sights onto in Saskatchewan. And we're happy to see that health information is one area that we're taking a look at. But we've got to, we've got to make sure that we don't say this is the only one and we're going to put it aside for another five to eight years.

So I just want to take a minute and talk about what the minister talked about. He talked about this as a result of support from recommendations of the health records protection working group. They made 11 recommendations. Four of these recommendations require legislative changes. So I'm curious to know what were the other seven. We'll make sure we have those questions for the minister. What were the seven recommendations that didn't require legislative change and what are the steps to implement all 11 changes that were recommended?

We'd also like to know who's actually on that group, working group. Is it all bureaucrats or is it inclusive of the public? Who from the public is involved in that? And it would be very interesting to know who's in that working group and how they fit in and how they utilize some of the information or some of the recommendations from the Privacy Commissioner.

So he talks about a strict liability offence in terms of amendments to HIPA [*The Health Information Protection Act*]

and if records are found abandoned or unsecured, the trustee responsible for the records will need to show they took all reasonable steps to prevent their abandonment. This means they won't need to prove that the trustee intended to abandon the records. We know in the past and we've heard from the Minister of Justice on some of these issues that there wasn't enough evidence or enough to go forward on, and I hope this closes that gap.

Okay. It also talks about making it an individual offence for wilful disclosure of personal information. It makes it clear that it also applies not only to trustees but to individuals who are employees of the trustees. And the third amendment is a snooping offence which we've talked about.

So we think we will have lots of questions when this gets to committee, but I know that others will want to have some comments about this. It's an important piece of legislation but we will want to know how does this fit into the bigger picture. This is an important area that clearly some four years now — March 25th — and here we are March 2nd approaching the four-year anniversary of that find, the medical records discovered in Regina. So government's not moving really fast on this and I think this needs to be a priority.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 165** — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hazard* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Appreciate the opportunity to rise again and enter into the debate on Bill No. 165, *An Act to amend The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*.

And it's a shorter Act. It's one that really just deals with the one issue that the Premier had raised about making agreements with other provinces in terms of the sale of liquor, of alcohol. And so this is an interesting piece because we know that when we have tried to raise the issue about buy local, we've been shut down from the other side, saying every day is buy local. But here's a bill that really . . . And we understand and especially when it comes to specialty products or wine or different types of alcohol, people's tastes really call out for wines and different

spirits from across the country, across the world. But I understand what's going on here.

But it would be interesting to know what kind of consultation went on with the local distilleries. Somebody talked about the one in Lumsden with the pickle juice, was it . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Pickle vodka. And how is pickle vodka ever going to make a comeback when it's having to compete, having to compete with other products across Canada?. How on earth will pickle vodka ever have a chance to make it on the provincial scene when it's up against some mighty giants from other provinces?

So we understand this, but this would've been a great opportunity really to instead really promote buy local. In fact here's an opportunity where they could've coupled this together. A nice wine pairing in fact — buy local, buy Canada. What an opportunity. What a marketing thing. But here really they're going out for buy Canada, buy British Columbia.

And we really wonder about this. How have they really thought this all the way through? We'll have lots of questions in committee in terms of what is the impact on the local market when we see that there's so many, so many producers who are really trying to make it in a significant niche.

You know, one of my favourites is the Cypress Hills wines and they do some really nice stuff. And if you've had an opportunity . . . I don't know how many people have been down to Cypress Hills Winery. It's a beautiful little place down by the park and really well worth the trip and just really nice how they've taken different plants and made them, whether it's rhubarb wine or different types of products. It's just great. But I really want to give them a shout-out because they're great.

And I know west of Saskatoon, Perdue is another great winery there and there's people working really hard to make it in Saskatchewan and using the farmers' markets, using whatever they can to make it in Saskatchewan because if you make it here then you can make it throughout.

And then of course we've talked about the craft breweries. We can go on and on about that and how they would like to have some changes to regulations so they can make it, and their own special unique challenges that they have.

But we see before us this bill so that we can make it easier to purchase alcohol from another province and bring it here into Saskatchewan. Not necessarily a bad idea but is it the one that should be the priority for this government? I'm not sure. I think buy local takes a priority. I think buy local is a great idea and should be a priority for this government, and not necessarily shopping around.

But with that, I know that there'll be lots of questions for this in committee and there'll be lots of my colleagues who will want to speak to this as well. So I would like to move Bill No. 165, *An Act to amend The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* be adjourned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation 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. 166

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 166 — *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, glad to join debate tonight on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*.

Referencing the minister's second reading speech which was given in this House December 1st, 2014, I think it's important to point out that:

. . . we heard from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, or SARM; the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, or SUMA; and the Saskatchewan Association of City Clerks. The New North and the school board associations were also consulted but they did not request any amendments. I would like to thank the many stakeholders who have provided valuable insight and feedback over the past year as we have moved through this process.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that this piece of legislation started up with consultation with a follow-up survey after the 2012 municipal elections, wherein canvassing municipalities for any issues they may have encountered and identifying areas for clarification and possible amendments.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to reference that off the top by way of saying that it is important, when you're dealing with local government elections, that as best you can, you want to put the power and the responsibility squarely in the hands of the people that seek to be governed and that seek to govern.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the actual changes to the legislation, I know that we've certainly gone through updating our own elections Act — a couple of different iterations over the past few years here, Mr. Speaker. But again, in terms of provisions of around where polling stations might take place, hours of balloting, how people might be registered to vote, what constitutes an advanced voter, there are a number of these measures that are anticipated by this legislation.

And again though, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is, as has been contended by the minister, and we'll take him at his word, was developed in response to local input from local governors themselves, and it would seem to carry that forward fairly well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act,*

2014. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 167

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 167 — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. As was stated right off the top, these are consequential amendments flowing from Bill No. 166 wherein there are amendments made to the one bilingual act, *The Education Act, 1995*. Again it's not exactly stop-the-press material, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what is being contemplated here. It's again flowing from the main activity which takes place in Bill No. 166.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would look forward to the comments from various of my colleagues on this interesting piece of legislation. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

[19:30]

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 167 *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 168

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 168 — *The Government Relations Administration Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very happy to rise in the Assembly tonight to enter the debate for the discussion on Bill No. 168, I believe we have. Yes, the government relations administration amendment Act.

The minister gave some fairly extensive comments in his introduction of this bill back in December of last year when it was introduced, and I think those are certainly appreciated because there's quite a bit going on with this bill. And I think it's important to sort of piece it apart and try and understand exactly what the government is doing here.

What they're attempting to do is to rearrange the administration for municipal governments. There were a number of Acts that have developed over the years that specifically addressed the relations between the provincial government and various urban and rural municipalities. Those four Acts that are now being repealed once this Act is enacted would be *The Urban Affairs Act, The Rural Affairs Act, The Rural Development Act, and The Northern Affairs Act*.

These are bills that go beyond the actual roles and responsibilities of the rural municipalities or the urban municipalities or the northern administration district. And those bills, like *The Rural Municipalities Act* and *The Urban Municipalities Act*, deal generally with the role of the municipalities. What these bills focused on was the role of the provincial government in relation to those municipal governments.

I think when you're looking at consolidating these four bills into one, for efficiency purposes I presume, I think there is definitely something that gets lost in the translation or in the reorg. And that is a bit, I think, sad in a way, Mr. Speaker, because we know that all of those bills have a very specific history in this province, that they came through evolution and through the evolution of government relations over the years. And I think a good example of that is if you take a look at *The Northern Affairs Act* as it currently is written. In the new bill, they have incorporated some of the I guess principles or guiding guidelines that we found in the previous bill, but I think that some has been lost as well.

Now *The Northern Affairs Act* is not very long. It's only two pages. There's only one main section really and that's section 8. And it tells us a story about the government's relation to northern affairs. For example, one of the clauses says . . . This is all in terms of the responsibilities of the minister. Currently the minister is responsible for coordinating, investigating, monitoring, evaluating, plan and promoting “. . . practical measures to foster and advance the general development of the north.”

Now that doesn't show up in the new bill in the same language. I think they made an attempt at it in clause 3(2) to talk about responsibilities in northern Saskatchewan, but I think that old clause sort of tells us the very important role the government plays in coordinating and planning and evaluating programs that are designed specifically for the northern part of our province.

Interestingly in the bottom part of that section, 8(1) in *The Northern Affairs Act*, the important part here, and I'm going to read this to you, Mr. Speaker: “The minister is responsible for matters related to northern affairs in Saskatchewan and may . . .” And there's a whole bunch of things that he can do to do that, and here's the role of the minister here:

to ensure that the Government of Saskatchewan is advised as to the views of residents of northern Saskatchewan respecting the delivery of programs and the provision of services in northern Saskatchewan by the ministries and agencies of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The key point here, Mr. Speaker, in that clause is that the

minister is responsible to hear the views of the northern residents as to whether those programs are working or whether they're not. I think that's a very important clause, and it's one that really identifies what the role of the government is vis-à-vis the northern folks and also what their role is and how important their voice is. That doesn't show up in this new bill. It's gone.

I think when you start doing these kinds of amalgamations of Acts, those important nuances can get missed. I assume, Mr. Speaker, they deliberately have removed that role of the government, and they've deliberately removed the requirement for the minister to be advised as to the views of northern residents or views of residents of northern Saskatchewan. And I think that's a sad thing.

I think that's something that we hear today in the legislature from people from rural Saskatchewan. They have views that are not being heard, and they're not being listened to. And that's something that I think is disappointing when we have to see citizens come to the legislature to make those kinds of demands, to become active politically. I guess it's interesting to see that happening. But for the residents of northern Saskatchewan, we know that their access to this building is much more difficult than it would be for folks that live an hour away.

So the concern here is, how will this government now approach their role or their determination of what the views of northern residents are? And I think that's something that's simply missing in this new bill, and I don't think the minister came close to addressing that in his comments when he introduced the bill. Certainly when we get to committee, that's something I think we want to really take a close look at is, why is the government getting rid of that responsibility to listen to northern residents? Because we know, and I think any one of us who have experience in small communities know that people on the ground have a good sense of what's going on, and quite often as you get through layers of government or layers of health regions or layers of school administration, you don't always get the real sense of what's going on.

In *The Northern Affairs Act*, there was a requirement for the government to actually listen to the views of northern residents, and that has been removed in this new bill. I think that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

The other bills that are being repealed and replaced with this new bill, the one is *An Act respecting Rural Affairs*. This was a bill that came in in the '70s. Again it was just sort of, what is the role and powers of the minister in relation to rural municipalities in Saskatchewan? And in this case, the existing bill talks about the role of the minister. He's responsible — and this is section 7 of the current Act — he's responsible for all kinds of programs including:

community planning in, and development in and of, municipalities;

roads and transportation in or affecting municipalities;

the taxation of properties, businesses and special franchises in municipalities;

the provision of financial, administrative, technical and

other support services to municipalities; and

the co-ordination and carrying out of joint ventures relating to municipalities . . .

Now if you go to the new bill and you look for those roles and responsibilities, you'll see that they're somewhat there. This is in clause 3(1), and it talks about the responsibilities of the ministers, but it's changed. And it's much more, I would say, bureaucratic in the language. But I think when you look at clause 7 of the existing bill and the idea that there'll be "the provision of financial, administrative, technical and other support services to municipalities," clearly we see there's a big role for government in relation to . . . well, in government relations with other levels of government including the urban and rural municipal levels. And this is important.

What I'm hearing when I'm out travelling these days, particularly from the farm communities, is a worry that a lot of the RMs [rural municipalities] are not being . . . that the government isn't connected to what's going on in rural municipal land. And indeed one individual phoned me not too long ago and has actually had to sue his local RM for building a road on his property without permission. When he phoned the Premier's office, they basically said, we don't touch that. That's not us. We don't want anything to do with it. So they've taken a very hands-off approach to these kinds of disputes.

The minister pointed out in his initial comments that there's one special part in this bill, and it's in the part of the bill where it's the consequential amendments. He pointed out that there's no ability for the ministry to step in when there are disputes. And I'm hoping that these consequential amendments to *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act* will help the ministry be more available to RMs when there are disputes, either with individual ratepayers or interdisputes between various RMs.

We saw that the Privacy Commissioner just came out with a report on an RM near Regina here, and there's a number of recommendations made there as well that we're hoping will be implemented, including an advocate or an ombudsman of some sort for rural people to be able to make complaints when things aren't being done properly.

So the new section that the minister's talking about in the consequential amendments part is basically the second half of the bill. And you'll find it starting . . . I just have to find it here. In the new bill it starts on page 4, and it's basically the consequential amendments section. So what they're doing is they're adding this piece to all three of those bills — *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act* — and it's identical for all three of these bills. They now have this new section, and what it talks about is it gives the minister another power here to review or mediate certain intermunicipal disputes. So we see that when we have cities in disputes with RMs, when we have northern rural municipalities in disputes with northern communities, this is a new power for the minister to be able to come in and impose or dictate the solution to some of these disputes.

So just to quickly go through those, the new sections that are being added here, the minister can appoint someone to conduct

a review of the dispute and make recommendations and give advice. The minister can also appoint someone to mediate and assist those in the dispute. He also has to give notice if he's going to act under these sections, and the person that he appoints can actually establish the terms and conditions for the conduct of the review or the mediation.

I think another interesting part and the very last part of these new additions is the compulsory dispute resolution required by the minister. So what happens here is that instead of going through the dispute resolution mechanisms set up in the first part of the section, the minister can actually at any time refer that dispute to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to hold a hearing and make a decision to settle the intermunicipal dispute. I think that's a heavy tool, and we've seen this government enact other legislation that is imposing upon rural municipalities.

I know we have *The Planning and Development Act* in Saskatchewan already where I think over the years past it has been a good tool for municipalities that have connections . . . say a rural municipality close to a city that's growing outward. And that bill was there for that purpose. But we see the minister adding yet another tool here in the minister's tool box to ensure or enforce resolution of disputes when municipalities are having trouble doing that.

I think one thing that I think has been very important for municipalities and particularly school boards is an ability for the minister to force municipalities to collect and remit the education and property taxes because apparently some municipalities are not doing that appropriately, and there was nothing within the current legislation to require municipalities to behave. The minister pointed out it's going to be used as a last resort, but it is something that is simply a gap right now, a regulatory gap. So presumably they will be able to use this where the municipality doesn't comply with its legislative requirement to levy, collect, and remit the education property taxes.

So in terms of the four main changes that the minister pointed out, he says the first thing the bill does is to “. . . reflect the [new] ministry's current mandate as it relates to municipal affairs, northern affairs, public safety, and First Nation and Métis relations.” I'm not sure that the way the bill is rearranged, the relationship with northern residents has appropriately captured that, and these are things we'll want to examine a little bit further as we continue in the debate.

[19:45]

Secondly, he said it's going to “. . . consolidate and standardize the general authorities of the minister now contained in four separate statutes . . .” into one. So in terms of consolidation, I think the bill probably does meet that goal that he's identified.

And then he talks, thirdly, about the “. . . new ministerial authority to deal with certain situations,” and that's certainly the one I just mentioned about the collection of education property taxes and proper remittance.

Finally, it's these “. . . consequential amendments to the three [main] municipal Acts to help resolve intermunicipal disputes.”

I think we need to see more support for individual ratepayers in these types of bills as well. I understand that that kind of support has waned over the last few years since this government came into power, and that the folks that were doing that work no longer exist in the public service. So I think that's part of the loss when we have a government that decides to cut 15 per cent of the public service off the top without any thought or sort of foresight into the effect that it's going to have on the people that were using those services, requiring those services, needing those services, and are no longer getting them. It's really unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point I think that others of my colleagues are going to want to be able to speak to this bill. It's an interesting bill and I think it reflects a much more bureaucratic approach to relations with municipal authorities. And perhaps it's just a sign of the times and the way we do government relations. But at this point I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 170

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 170** — *The Fire Safety Act* 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 enter into this debate. It's a very important one. The short title, *The Fire Safety Act*, but the long title is *An Act respecting Fire Safety, Fire Prevention and Emergency Response Services and making consequential amendments to other Acts*. And of course just recently, in the last few weeks, our province was caught in a news story about a fire up in Loon Lake, the Makwa Sahgaiehcan Reserve and in the tragedy when young lives were lost.

It really doesn't matter whether it's young or old. And we think of the stories from Quebec of a seniors' home with lives lost of course, or the train derailment disaster in Quebec, again where we're seeing regulations coming out of the federal government around that, just how critically, critically important this kind of legislation is and how we have to make sure we get it right, that there are no unintended consequences, that in fact what we value in our community is safety.

And number one among that is fire safety. And I think of other issues like water quality, that type of thing, but nothing really, from the beginning of time, really, in terms of fire, has always made us really fearful. And this is really important to make sure that we get this right.

So tonight we are talking about this bill, and I think that it really

reaches many corners. But I do have lots of comments, and I know there'll be lots of questions about this bill in terms of the kind of priorities that this kind of government is making. It can bring forward legislation like this, and that's fair enough. But will it have the resources to make sure it really works?

My colleague just talked about the 15 per cent reduction of staffing. I'd be curious to know if there is enough staff to really enforce this kind of legislation. And I think that's really important because we can do one thing. We can make a piece of legislation, and we can dress it all up we want to, but if nobody's inspecting it, nobody's putting teeth in it, then we have a real, real problem.

And so we think it's timely that in fact you can have . . . this is updated. It's been some 20-some years I guess since the last piece of legislation, and much, much has changed. But are we really dealing with the kind of changes?

Now we all, both sides of the House had a successful lobby day with the firefighters I think was back in November, late November, 23rd I believe. They made their case about some very important issues. And really how they framed it is, it's not just about loss, but in fact having good fire protection and all the regulations and codes that come along with it is more of an investment in our people and in our communities.

The wonderful thing about Saskatchewan is how it's growing, and we're seeing many signs of that in terms of new homes, new workplaces, that kind of thing. But the problem is that it's all susceptible to fire if it's not looked after. And so it's very important that we make sure that our legislation speaks to that.

Now we see some of the changes, and it's kind of unique — the appointment of a fire chief for park land or a regional park and how you appoint fire chiefs for hamlets and that type of thing. But we really do have some questions to make sure that there will be teeth to this, that in fact it means what it says, and people will feel that and they will feel safer in their homes because of this legislation. It won't be a piece of legislation that the odd inspector will refer to because we want to make sure there is enough inspectors out there to do the work.

So I just want to take a minute and refer to the minister's comments because really he talks about three things that this bill will do and accomplish: “. . . update the powers, definitions, and other terminology to better reflect the current realities and requirements . . .” And that's fair enough. As I had said and he referred to the fact that the bill that it replaces is from 1992, so that's been a while. “Second, it will provide local authorities, their firefighters and fire inspectors with more transparent rules regarding entry in situations involving fire, along with additional measures to prevent the risk of fires and other emergencies.”

Interestingly it doesn't speak to two in and two out, which I know those folks have been lobbied with, and particularly the Minister of Labour. It's an occupational health and safety regulation that the firefighters have lobbied for many years they get the kind of protection that when two firefighters go into a burning building, there are two outside to support them in case something goes wrong. And in fact many of the municipalities, many of the cities now actually do that as a practice but they

don't have it in regulation. It's best practice and it's a safe practice, and I think that it's time that we deal with that. So it's interesting they talked about fire entry or entry into situations while on fire but they won't talk about the two in and two out. And that's very, very important and I think this would be the time to ensure that's in place.

And third, the new Act will provide the province, through the fire commissioner, with clear authority and greater ability to assist and support communities and local fire departments when requested or required by a fire situation or emergency event.

Now I just want to go towards the end of his comments, about halfway through when he talks about:

The proposed new Act maintains the autonomy municipalities currently have to pass bylaws regarding fire service levels and any other fire safety and prevention matters. Most importantly, it maintains the autonomy municipalities currently have to decide what fire services they will provide and how best to provide them. Whether volunteer or paid departments or shared services and mutual aid agreements with other municipalities and First Nations, the new Act ensures these are accommodated and are not limited in any way by legislation. In fact, the new Act will better facilitate inclusion of First Nations, regional entities, and private industries in fire service agreements.

So it recognizes the challenges that are out there and whether it's regional entities, private industry, municipalities, but it does recognize First Nations and service agreements with them and how they have to be handled. And so we will be talking, we'll be asking questions specifically about how can we ensure that a situation that happened up in Loon Lake doesn't happen again, you know. We want to make sure that everybody's interests are recognized and protected. But at the end of the day I think we all recognize the fact that any loss of life is too much and we don't want to see any of that kind of stuff happening. And we can all learn. And it will be interesting to hear more about what the fire commissioner has in mind in terms of fire inspections and really fire prevention.

This is a huge, huge issue. As I said earlier in the afternoon, in my riding of Saskatoon Centre we have an older housing stock. What's interesting about that, it's maybe more at risk to burn because of wiring and different things like that, but it takes longer to burn compared to new houses that, once they catch on fire, they tend to burn more quickly. We all have the different challenges in our own communities. But it is a sad day when you recognize that fires do happen in all our communities and it really doesn't matter whether it's a smart meter that caused the fire or whether it was some other error in judgment that caused the fire — an accident, an electrical thing.

These are potentials that we need to make sure we're on top of and we have the supports, and the fire chief or the fire commissioner feels that they have the support of the province, both in terms of the resources and the legislation to make sure that communities, and whether they be municipalities, First Nations, or private interests, that they actually are getting the support quickly. You know, I mean we see this and I'm not sure what the minister had in mind in terms of private entities, but

we could think of NGOs [non-governmental organization] that might be in terms of tire recycling. We've seen fires start with tires that can be long lasting and the fumes that come out from that can be really, really deadly. So we want to make sure that this bill is all-inclusive and meets the needs of everyone, and it's not just something that people want to say is done and now we're all good. No, we're not all good. Fire prevention is a 24-7 issue and constantly has to be updated. And hopefully this legislation looks into the future and provides those people who are charged with providing safety, fire safety in our communities, all the tools we have.

Now we know that for example the firefighters came here and they talked about additional funding for fire safety. This is important. And as they said — and I agree with this — it's an investment. It's an investment when we talk about protecting our infrastructure, our homes, and our families. This is not just a reduction in cost. This is actually something that makes our communities even stronger, and I think firefighters are really part of that safety network that we feel we have to have in our communities.

You know, we've done a lot of work in terms of recognizing the different illnesses that are caused by firefighters fighting fires, particularly with the new kind of smoke that can come out of the different synthetic materials that we're using now. It's not the same kind of challenge it used to be. It's much more hazardous, and it can be really quite traumatic. And so I think we need to make sure we listen to people who are in the field, who are fighting fires, who are preventing fires every day. And I think this is a huge, huge issue.

And so I think it's important to make sure that we do and the government does recognize staffing both within the fire commissioner's office but also to make sure communities have the resources to make sure they have the right resources, the right mix so they can make a difference and make sure people feel safe as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we can also make sure that firefighters feel like they have . . . And this goes right across the board. I actually feel this is one that we're going to have to deal with with some especially rural areas where they can be caught in very traumatic situations with fire and the effect of post-traumatic effects among firefighters, but specifically around professional firefighters.

I can only imagine the stress that many folks feel up in Loon Lake just because of the way that it's all played out. And while our hearts and sympathy go out to all involved, these folks live with the aftermath of the fire for a long, long time. And you think about that, and I come back to the train derailment, the post-traumatic stress that happens after a major explosion like that and how it affects the community there as well.

[20:00]

I think there's lots that we can be looking at here as well. It's a very important issue and of course I think we need to listen to our firefighters. They do talk about Bill 85 that really set back the professionalism of firefighters, particularly when it changed the threshold of communities in which the bargaining process now does not apply to and moving it up from 10,000 to 20,000,

moving eight communities out of that. And I think that was a shame to do that, especially the way it was done by the government of the day, that people were really caught off guard, didn't have time to explain to the minister the impact of taking some eight communities out of the bargaining process that professional firefighters have enjoyed in our province.

Having said that, I think that this is important that we take a look at this. We have some real clear priorities of the fact that we need to make sure firefighting is properly resourced throughout the province. And we know that in fact there will be some interjurisdictional issues but, at the end of the day, what we want to make sure is that people are safe in their communities. And that's an important . . . underlining all of our province, that no matter where you live in Saskatchewan you should be safe, whether it be from fire, whatever.

But today we are talking about fire, and I think this is important that we take a real hard look at this. And of course we'll be looking to see, how is this legislation backed up in the budget? Because as I said, it can be a priority on legislation, but is it a priority when it comes to resourcing? And that's the question that will be before us.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 172

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 172** — *The Naturopathic Medicine Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again a pleasure to join debate on Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*. It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. I come to this with a bit of knowledge, not a whole lot, but a bit of personal experience. Regina Elphinstone-Centre is home to a number of naturopathic practitioners, and when I think of these individuals, Mr. Speaker, they are some of the healthiest people you can imagine, so they must be doing something right. I guess the thing that I'll be interested to see, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not this legislation that replaces *The Naturopathy Act*, whether it or not this does in fact improve their situation and what it adds to their ability to help people stay healthy in this province, Mr. Speaker.

As regards, you know, self-regulating bodies' legislation from time immemorial, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the legislation in front of us deals with the different, different measures around governance, around who can be a naturopathic doctor. You know, what titles are applicable, what it takes to be a

naturopathic doctor, what it takes to gain admission to the college, what are the disciplinary procedures, what are the penalties involved. A lot of it's fairly standard operating procedure as regards regulatory bodies, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And as such, again it would seemingly be in line with the previous legislation. And as regards housekeeping or updating the legislation, making sure the terms are current, fair enough. But we will be interested to gather more information or clarification, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with regards to some contentions made by the minister in his second reading speech. For example, the enabling of the practitioners under the Act . . . Here we go.

The new Act will modernize this legislation. It will ensure the regulations governing naturopathic doctors will meet patients' needs and that these naturopathic doctors are able to work to their full scope of practice.

Well I guess, Mr. Speaker, what is it about the current legislative regulatory regime that has not enabled the ability of naturopath practitioners to practise to the full scope of their practice? What is it about the current legislative regime that does not enable that?

And that is not made clear in the minister's remarks. It's referenced, but it's not referenced particularly. So what was the problem? What has been changed? And how will that enable the full scope of practice?

It does again, it goes through the different things that you'd expect in any self-regulating body's legislation, but it talks about how the new legislation "... will align with the requirements of the Agreement on Internal Trade and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement." Again that's a fine and good thing, Mr. Speaker, but how is it particularly that the previous legislation was not aligned with the requirements under the Agreement on Internal Trade or with the New West Partnership Trade Agreement?

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, it's not a lot of new material being provided here as different from the current regulatory regime as far as I can tell. Again, Mr. Speaker, we look for better opportunity to gain the understanding. Is this housekeeping for housekeeping's sake?

Is there impetus around the different trade agreements? And again, you know, enabling our practitioners to be recognized appropriately in other jurisdictions, that's great. But again, what is it about the current regulatory regime that does not accomplish that and as such has been remedied? Because it's come back to where I had started, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again, I have the privilege of knowing some people that are naturopathic practitioners, and again these are some very, very healthy people, and they're obviously doing something right. If this legislation helps them to do an even better job, then great. But if there's something in here that takes away from that ability, again you want to make sure that credentials are meaningful, that you have clear expectations in place. But what is it about this legislation that rises above either responding to calls from the Agreement on Internal Trade, the AIT, or the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, or is this

housekeeping for housekeeping's sake? We await greater answers to those questions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 172. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 174

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 174** — *The Registered Teachers Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it is my honour to be able to rise this evening and speak to Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. This is a new initiative that this government is bringing forward. We had some extensive comments from the minister when he introduced this bill last December, and he talked a little bit about where this is coming from and why. He had a number . . . a shopping list of what he believes the bill is attempting to do.

And I think the most important thing is the firstly on his list, and that's the establishment of a Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. So that's a new innovation. If I understand correctly, a couple other provinces have undertaken to have a similar kind of board.

The concern identified was that teachers and administrators were being disciplined in three different areas. Teachers that were from private schools were being disciplined when necessary by the ministry. Teachers that were teaching in classrooms for the public school system were being disciplined . . . or the disciplinary matters were being governed by the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation]. And then we have the administrators, and their disciplinary processes were managed by the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents. So now all of these are being mushed into one board, The Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board.

So the Act establishes the board of directors, prescribes the duty of this board to serve and protect the public and to exercise its powers in the public interest. So that's a good thing. The bill also prescribes the objectives of this board, and they must establish the certification standards for teachers and standards of professional conduct and competence of teachers.

Fifthly, the board is given the . . . Now they'll be the ones issuing teacher's certificates. I remember, Mr. Speaker, I got my teacher's certificate. I think it was 1984 or 5. I forget which year, but anyways 1984 or 1985, and I got my plastic piece of paper or my plastic card, and it said I'm now a class A teacher

in this province of Saskatchewan.

And I always wondered, you know, what point do you actually really become a teacher? Is it when you finish your last exam? Is it when you get your card? Is it when you get your first teaching job? Or is teaching and learning a lifelong process, and these cards are just part of that process? So that's an aside, but it was something I thought about at the time. And you know, am I still a teacher? I haven't taught formally in a classroom for many years, coming up 30, but I teach piano at music camps.

So I think it's an interesting concept when you think about the teaching process. And many people are teaching all the time, but they're not certified. So there's different nuances here and I think, you know, other professions I think you could make similar examples.

But we now have this new board that's going to coordinate all this and issue teacher's certificates, and then there will be other things the board must do. They're responsible "... for intake, investigation, hearing, and ruling on allegations of professional misconduct and incompetence."

And then finally there's a couple other things he talked about. There'll be a public register where we can actually look and find the certificate of a registered teacher, and they'll establish a professional conduct committee and a disciplinary committee.

So the minister tells us that I think it's ... I believe I saw it in his comments and I better make sure that I've got that. But there will be a lot of money. Oh, I know where it was. It was in some of the press afterwards, Mr. Speaker, in his scrum, and he indicated in one of his scrums that the cost is going to be about \$2 million a year. And you know, I see that that's I guess what it would cost to establish this kind of board.

My question I guess is, you know, we have roofs caving in. We have crowded, crowded situations in many classrooms, and a lot of students aren't being able to access the learning they need to access because there's so much shortfall in the education system. Yet we're now spending \$2 million per year — this isn't just to establish the board — but \$2 million per year to operate this disciplinary board. We have these pieces in place right now, but this new board is going to cost \$2 million per year.

So I think that's one of the things in terms of the public debate. We need to see, you know, is this an appropriate expense or is this something that could be done on a cheaper, less expensive manner, and why is this necessary at this point in time? He didn't sort of indicate why he's pushing this through at this point in time, if there's any time-sensitive issues, why we have to go forward with this new board which is a fairly major retrofit, I would suggest, of the existing processes. I don't know if there's been problems. We don't really hear of any existing problems, so why is this necessary at this point in time? It's not really clear.

[20:15]

Certainly we agree that, you know, protecting the teaching profession is important. We agree that teachers are professionals that need to be treated as professionals. I'm not

sure that that's something this government can say that they've done on a consistent basis with teachers. So perhaps there's more introspection required with this government to say, are we treating teachers professionally when we see them not even getting an opportunity to vote on their own contract settlement? I think that's, that's something that's concerning.

So it's going to cost a lot of money; it's going to cost \$2 million a year. And we also are concerned about where this is coming from because we're not sure where this bill's coming from and what the problems are that led to this, deciding to amalgamate these three systems into one.

So at this point I think other of my colleagues want to have an opportunity to speak to this bill, and at this point in time I will retire my own comments and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 175

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 175** — *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is another one of the consequential amendments bills that we've talked about often today and that is the requirement to do some amendments in both official languages. In this case, again it's *The Education Act*. There are a number of changes required to be made dealing with some of the sections that deal with teacher certificates, termination and suspension, and qualification, employment, and teachers.

So that's basically what you find in this amendment Act. I did want to mention, in the previous bill there's a number of consequential amendments there as well. And then so *The League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents Act* is amended, section 60 of the bill; *The Teachers' Federation Act* is also amended in 61 quite extensively; and teachers' life insurance Act is amended' and *The Teachers' Superannuation and Disability Benefits Act* is amended.

So you can see those bills were never translated into French. And you know, I'm not exactly sure why certain bills were translated into French and others weren't; that's part of our constitutional history that I'm not as up to speed on as I perhaps should be. But in this case we have *The Education Act* is a

bilingual Act, and so Bill No. 175 makes a number of consequential amendments to that bill as a result of this new initiative on the part of this government for a new regulatory board for teachers.

So at this point I think that's the extent of my comments for this consequential amendment Act, and I would move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 176

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 176 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*** 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 enter into this debate on No. 176, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act*. And it's a relatively short one and it's one that has caused quite a bit of concern, you know, because clearly there is a priority for safety. And I've talked at some length about fire safety, and now we have traffic safety which also is a huge, huge issue in Saskatchewan. And the minister in his own comments talked about in 2013, Mr. Speaker, excessive speed was a factor in 24 deaths, distracted driving was a factor in 33 deaths. And that's 57 deaths lost needlessly because of high-risk driving behaviours, so clearly we need to do something about that.

Now we did have the Traffic Safety Committee travel around the province to talk about different concerns. We would have liked to go a little bit longer, more in-depth consultations, because clearly when you're dealing with such clear priorities, you know for example, a fire safety one took several years. And the traffic safety one was a response very quickly and probably should have had some more thought into it because the minister does even admit that it was responding. The bill was introduced in December, that he first spoke to in second readings, December 8th actually was a response to a piece of legislation that they had a problem with in June when people, businesses were finding out their vehicles were actually being seized. And it was no fault of the business but that's what the reality of the law was.

And of course this is something that happens with this government. Oops. Another oops. We just heard one just prior about *The Education Amendment Act*. Another oops where they don't really think through their legislation that have these unintended consequences. And I would think, you know, a big number of pieces of legislation that we're dealing with are

dealing with fixing up the little mistakes that were made.

And we're concerned about, were there consultations in this case. And here you have a story that was in *The StarPhoenix*, December 4th, 2014, and this is "Kevin Boychuk from K3 Excavating isn't satisfied with the changing laws regarding seizure of a company's vehicle for offences committed by employee who is driving on December 4th, 2014." The story is "Business owner blasts vehicle impound changes."

So I'll read parts of the story because I think it's really instructive to how this government has really failed to properly consult and get to a solution that really meets everyone's needs. It starts out saying:

Changes to the law allowing police to impound a company vehicle if an employee is caught driving while using a cellphone have failed to satisfy a Saskatoon business owner.

Kevin Boychuk, who owns K3 Excavating Ltd., blasted as insufficient proposed changes introduced Thursday that would punish drivers of company vehicles by pulling their licences and allow for an appeal so companies can retrieve impounded vehicles rather than wait seven days.

And I quote:

"They don't have any sense of practicality in this program," Boychuk said Thursday. "When this happened, it was like a baseball bat to the gut. I felt violated and I still feel violated."

It goes on to say that:

Boychuk also complained that he was not consulted by the provincial government or SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and would have recommended police be granted the ability to seize and impound a company driver's personal vehicle if caught.

Now the minister of the day says, "I think it strikes a good balance." But clearly we need to do better than that. Boychuk says, and I quote:

"I think they're missing the boat," said Boychuk, who added he had a safety plan before his company vehicle was impounded in August. [And he goes on, and I quote] "This has got nothing to do with safety."

So interesting insight. So we have to make sure we understand why SGI and this minister feel so strongly when business on the other hand feels actually the opposite, feels like they needed to have more consultation. So somewhere in between there is the reality that we need to do better particularly when their lives are at risk.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know many of my colleagues will want to speak to this and we'll have questions in committee. So at this point I'd like move that Bill No. 176, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act* be adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn

debate on Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 177

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 177 — *The Insurance Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again it's always a point of pride to rise and join debate in this Assembly, to take your place, to comment on the legislation and the issues of the day. And that's certainly, certainly the case with this piece of legislation.

I'm referring to Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, this was introduced on one of the last days of the sitting in the fall and is a very significant piece of legislation. It is 293 pages of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and that's a lot. And it certainly deals with some highly technical matters as regards insurance, as regards hypothecation, as regards the buying and selling of policies. And I guess, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I want to say early on about this legislation is that I think it's been brought forward in earnest to keep the legislative framework in which this very critical part of our financial sector does its business and that the industry in Saskatchewan is no more or less advantaged or disadvantaged by this legislation, compared to other jurisdictions.

Now in the second reading speech of the minister, Mr. Deputy Speaker, certainly the minister went through it, there's a bit of a — again 293 pages — a bit of a phone book in terms of the breadth and width of regulations that are there to be delved into.

But one of the things that he'd said right off the top was that "The proposed amendments are a result of an extensive review project that has involved ongoing consultation with the insurance industry and other jurisdictions over several years." If that is indeed the fact, Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to see what undertakings this government makes as regards the hearings or the committee consideration of this legislation and whether or not there will be expert witnesses brought forward.

I understand there's a technical briefing that will be undertaken later this week, and certainly we in the official opposition appreciate that opportunity. But what is being done to work with the broader public as regards the basic validity of this legislation and whether or not there are areas that have unintended consequences or areas that need to be brought to the broader attention of the public?

Because, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps you have received these inquiries yourself, but certainly I myself as a legislator have received two separate inquiries that raise some very I think valid points that are again fairly technical in nature but raise some concerns about the way that this legislation will impact

insurance policies in Saskatchewan. It'll be interesting to see whether or not, again, with something that's so comprehensive, so extensive, Mr. Speaker, whether or not this government is ready to hold it up to the scrutiny of bringing in expert witnesses to have their say in committee.

And again, Mr. Speaker, you know, as we've seen with other pieces of legislation, seemingly relatively straightforward pieces of legislation, Mr. Speaker, on what should be relatively straightforward matters, the law as brought forward by this government often has not come afoul of the law of unintended consequences. And if they aren't done right, then of course we're here. We've seen proof of this again here tonight, that if you don't do it right the first time, well you're going to have to come back to the legislature and fix it.

[20:30]

And I don't have the confidence in terms of . . . Well again I think the minister's an honourable fellow. I think he's got a ministry that does some great work, but there are some questions that are raised around this legislation that deserve a greater answer.

So we'll be interested to see what the willingness is of the government to bring in people to have their concerns addressed and to see what sort of efforts will be undertaken to ensure that something as vital as an insurance policy is not harmed or hurt in any way by the actions of this government, but in fact that this is as good as the minister's second reading speech where they seek to strengthen and modernize the industry to meet the challenges of today. And if they're as good as their word on that, Mr. Speaker, there have been questions raised about this legislation that demand an answer.

So I'll be following this with great interest, Mr. Speaker. Again there have been some very interesting concerns raised about it, around whether or not things like the trafficking provision versus no-trafficking position in the legislation, whether or not that has the intended effect of helping, of safeguarding consumers against folks using unsavoury practices and trading in their policies; whether or not things like a reverse mortgage, how that is impacted by this legislation.

Again there are more detailed questions than this forum or this particular stage of the legislation will allow for the best addressing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly if other colleagues, certainly our critic and other of our colleagues that have more expertise, more experience in this matter, I look forward to gaining their insights on this legislation.

And again it would be interesting to see what the willingness is of the government to open this bill up to the broader scrutiny that is possible at committee stage. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 177. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training, Tourism, Innovation, and Trade.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:33.]

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